$50K bail for man accused of molesting minor. PAGE 3
JGO postpones hearing CUC Camacho's testimony. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 188

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Long-term resident applicants with EADs ineligible for PUA

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor has confirmed that CNMI Long-Term Resident applicants who have recently received their Employment Authorization Documents are no longer eligible to receive pandemic unemployment assistance.

In an interview with CNMI Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, she said that even if an individual whose CNMI Only Transitional Worker visa—or CW-1 visa—remains active but has recently received an EAD from their Long-Term Resident application, they will no longer be qualified for unemployment assistance under the PUA program starting from the day their EAD was approved.

"We're going to go with the most recent status. We can't have two statuses. We will go

See PUA on Page 4

'Pfizer vax works in kids ages 5 to 11'

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

Pfizer said Monday its COVID-19 vaccine works for children ages 5 to 11 and that it will seek U.S. authorization for this age group soon—a key step toward beginning vaccinations for youngsters.

The vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner, BioNTech, is already available for anyone 12 and older. But with kids now back in school and the extra-contagious delta variant causing a huge jump in pediatric infections, many parents are anxiously awaiting vaccinations for their younger children.

See PFIZER on Page 4

File photo shows Pfizer vaccines. Each Pfizer vial contains six doses for vaccination against the COVID-19 virus.
U.S. AIR FORCE/SENIOR AIRMAN REBECKAH MEDEIROS

Senate passes budget bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Combined general, ARPA funds equal $278.38M appropriation for FY 2022

The full Senate adopted at an emergency session yesterday the "product" of the bicameral conference committee that worked out a $144,848,801 budget for the CNMI government's operations in fiscal year 2022.

Eight senators voted "yes" to adopt the confer-

See BUDGET on Page 4

CNMI COVID-19 total now 265

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Guam's COVID-19 death toll is now 181; 78 hospitalized

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced yesterday that two more incoming travelers have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total to 265, and added that there are currently no active COVID-19-related hospitalizations.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center reported Monday the island's 180th and 181st COVID-19-related deaths and reported that there are 78 individuals hospitalized due to

See COVID-19 on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:38pm, Sept. 21, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 81.2%

Days since last community transmission: 181

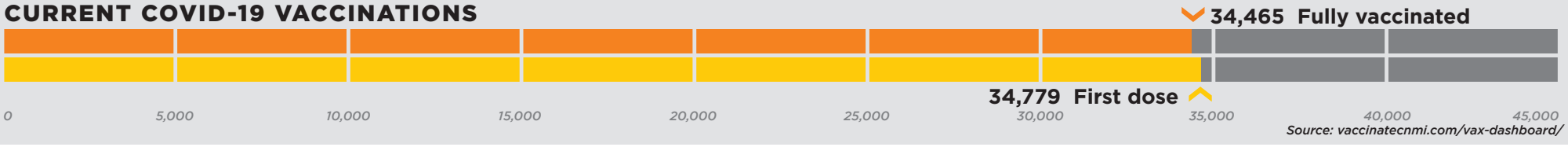
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,923
Fully Vaccinated:	29,130
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,856
Fully Vaccinated:	4,544
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	791

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	13,660	199	13,859
Recovered	10,657	138	10,795
Active	2,684	199	2,883
Deaths	179	2	181

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	263	2	265
Traced via Travel Screening	226	2	228
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

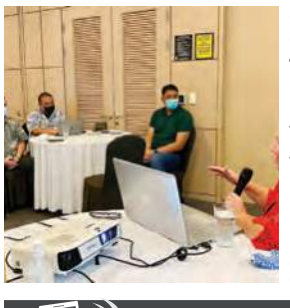
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



LOCAL
The Public School System undergoes training on data systems linked to student learning.

PAGE 11

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
Homeowners strive for the perfect green lawn, but it takes more than regular mowing.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Chris Rock says he has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and urged everyone to get vaccinated.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

CNMI Department of Labor provides PUA updates

As of Sept. 15, 2021, there are a total of 2,599 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation claims that remain pending at the CNMI Department of Labor.

In a statement from the department on Monday, it said it is the department's mission to pay all eligible claimants their due benefits. However, delays may be attributed to the fact-intensive adjudication process.

The department statement said that it has received a total of 39,220 unique claims, inclusive of non-jurisdictional and fraudulent claims during the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act, and the American Rescue Plan Act pandemic assistance periods.

Of these unique claims, 10,378 were deemed eligible and 26,243 were deemed ineligible for benefits based on the guidance and applicable laws provided to the department by the U.S. Department of Labor.

When claims are received, they are sorted, inputted into the system and alphabetically assigned to adjudicators for fact-finding and adjudication. During this phase, the adjudicator must determine, among other things:

1. Whether the claimant is receiving unemployment benefits from any other state or federal program;

2. Whether the claimant's employment was affected as a direct result of a qualifying COVID-19 reason;

3. Whether the claimant provided identification and sufficient employment documents within the applicable timelines;

4. Whether the claimant is "able and available" to work during the claimed weeks;

5. Whether the claimant is a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien;

6. Whether the claimant is monetarily eligible based on partial income and for how much; and

7. Whether deductions for overpayments, child support, and/or taxes is appropriate.

As a reminder, claimants are responsible for providing true and accurate information, reading the PUA benefit rights information handbook, and complying with requests for information. To maintain program integrity and prevent fraud or overpayments from occurring, PUA program adjudicators must address all deficiencies or issues in the claim. When documents are not submitted, incomplete, or otherwise flawed, further investigation is necessary to clear an issue. Further, when the department becomes aware of certain circumstances through employer reporting, fraud tips, or contradictory supporting documents, additional inquiry or investigation may become necessary. Although it may cause delay, the department seeks to clear issues and further investigate instead of issuing outright denials when such issues arise. When issues cannot be cleared, a denial is warranted.

As recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor, the CNMI Department of Labor has implemented the programs in accordance with the CNMI implementation plan and CNMI-DOL agreements. Further, the department has been cooperative with all necessary monitoring and reporting and proactive in providing timely payments, while balancing the difficult task of identifying and preventing fraud. The department understands these benefits are a critical lifeline for the community and is working within the applicable law to provide due benefits to eligible claimants.

Initially, for the first phase of the PUA program, PUA claimants were required to submit a simple "self-certification" that they met at least one of the COVID-19 approved, qualifying reasons identified under section 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of the CARES Act.

"As time progressed, we found that many claimants had either misinterpreted the program requirements and eligibility, or did not provide accurate information that would otherwise cause the claimant to be deemed ineligible for PUA benefits," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente. "While it is the department's responsibility to assist PUA claimants with processing claims, it is also our duty to verify and authenticate all information and documents provided by the claimants."

The PUA and FPUC programs are intended to support workers whose employment was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, contact the CNMI Department of Labor – PUA Program at 322-8870/8871/8872/8873/8874 or email info@puamarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Application Deadline: December 10, 2021

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Serving the People of the Northern Mariana Islands

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR

MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS

*Opportunities to learn and serve at a U.S. Service Academy include a **fully funded undergraduate education** and a **commission as a military officer** upon graduation.*

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S. Naval Academy

Eligibility: U.S. citizen, unmarried with no dependents, age 17-23, high school senior or graduate, and must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academies

To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.

Paid for by official funds authorized by the House of Representatives.

NMTI
NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Thursday, September 23, 2021
4:00 p.m. @ NMTI Facility, Lower Base

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Adoption of Meeting Minutes:
  a. August 19, 2021 – BoT Special Meeting
  b. September 9, 2021 – Nomination Committee Meeting
IV. Public Comments
V. Old Business
  a. Nomination Committee Process – Proposal to Adopt to Policy
  b. Schedule of Fees – Proposal to Adopt to Policy
  c. Trades Adult High School/ NMC ABE Updates
  d. CEO Appraisal forms from BoT Members
  e. Survey with Instructors Updates
VI. New Business
  a. Kick Off Ceremony Planning Updates
  b. Free classes for NMTI Staff – Proposal for Policy
  c. Work I Office Hours – Proposal for Policy
  d. E-Signatures for Signatories – Proposal for Policy
VII. Executive Session
VIII. Adjourn

$50K bail for man accused of molesting minor

The Superior Court has imposed a $50,000 cash bail on a man who allegedly sexually abused a minor by touching her inappropriately while she was asleep.

Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a $50,000 cash bail on Pedro Luis Demapan, a man charged with sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, indecent exposure, and disturbing the peace.

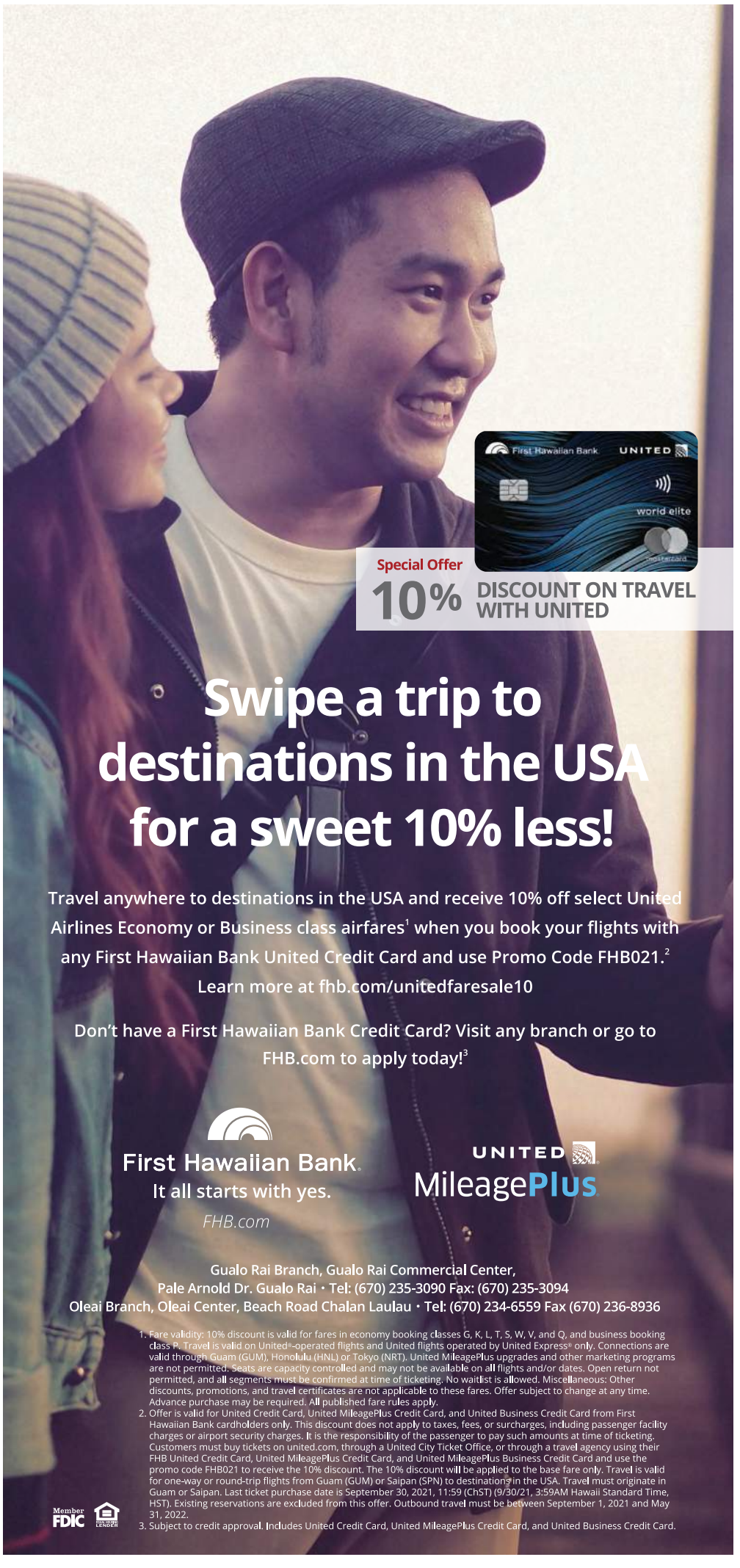
According to the complaint, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a call around 12:40am last Tuesday, Sept. 7, about a sexual abuse of a minor case.

Demapan

After a follow-up investigation, the minor told police that Demapan allegedly sexually abused her in the past and the most recent instance happened was when she was asleep. The victim stated that this occurred while her mother and siblings were at the store purchasing snacks for movie night.

The victim also stated that Demapan would ask her to mix drinks for him and that he would touch himself as she gave him drinks.

Demapan was arrested on Sept. 17 based on an arrest warrant signed by Kim-Tenorio. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***


First Hawaiian Bank
UNITED
world elite
Special Offer
10% DISCOUNT ON TRAVEL WITH UNITED
Swipe a trip to destinations in the USA for a sweet 10% less!
Travel anywhere to destinations in the USA and receive 10% off select United Airlines Economy or Business class airfares[1] when you book your flights with any First Hawaiian Bank United Credit Card and use Promo Code FHB021.[2]
Learn more at fhb.com/unitedfaresale10
Don't have a First Hawaiian Bank Credit Card? Visit any branch or go to FHB.com to apply today![3]
First Hawaiian Bank
It all starts with yes.
FHB.com
UNITED MileagePlus
Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center,
Pale Arnold Dr. Gualo Rai • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax (670) 236-8936
1. Fare validity: 10% discount is valid for fares in economy booking classes G, K, L, T, S, W, V, and Q, and business booking class P. Travel is valid on United®-operated flights and United flights operated by United Express® only. Connections are valid through Guam (GUM), Honolulu (HNL) or Tokyo (NRT). United MileagePlus upgrades and other marketing programs are not permitted. Seats are capacity controlled and may not be available on all flights and/or dates. Open return not permitted, and all segments must be confirmed at time of ticketing. No waitlist is allowed. Miscellaneous: Other discounts, promotions, and travel certificates are not applicable to these fares. Offer subject to change at any time. Advance purchase may be required. All published fare rules apply.
2. Offer is valid for United Credit Card, United MileagePlus Credit Card, and United Business Credit Card from First Hawaiian Bank cardholders only. This discount does not apply to taxes, fees, or surcharges, including passenger facility charges or airport security charges. It is the responsibility of the passenger to pay such amounts at time of ticketing. Customers must buy tickets on united.com, through a United City Ticket Office, or through a travel agency using their FHB United Credit Card, United MileagePlus Credit Card, and United MileagePlus Business Credit Card and use the promo code FHB021 to receive the 10% discount. The 10% discount will be applied to the base fare only. Travel is valid for one-way or round-trip flights from Guam (GUM) or Saipan (SPN) to destinations in the USA. Travel must originate in Guam or Saipan. Last ticket purchase date is September 30, 2021, 11:59 (ChST) (9/30/21, 3:59AM Hawaii Standard Time, HST). Existing reservations are excluded from this offer. Outbound travel must be between September 1, 2021 and May 31, 2022.
3. Subject to credit approval. Includes United Credit Card, United MileagePlus Credit Card, and United Business Credit Card.
Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

'Continued detections at airport keep us on our toes'

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday they are worried about several inbound passengers being confirmed positive for COVID-19 at the Francisco Ada/Saipan International Airport in the past few weeks, but this only proves that the screening system is working and that they are comfortable with their protocols.

Asked during his regular press briefing about several individuals identified by travel screening at the airport and confirmed positive through testing, Torres said they are worried for the whole community and that's what keeps them on their toes because they are not complacent.

"We understand that every flight there's a possibility to have a spread in the CNMI if we don't take care of the border. And that's why we continue to praise our first responders," he said.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. reported yesterday that two individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19 after they were identified by travel screening and confirmed through fifth-day testing and testing on arrival on Monday. The two new cases bring the CNMI's total to 265 cases since March 28, 2020.

Torres said members of COVID-19 Task Force are literally on top of every flight as they treat every passenger the same when it comes to the screening protocols.

He said he is very confident in the first responders and the protocols that are in place because they continue to maintain the same concerns every flight. The governor said they also don't hesitate to make changes to the quarantine rules if they need to.

Torres said he has also been talking to CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muna in making sure that they take these quarantine protocols seriously and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's requirements and recommendations.

"We do what we need to do to save every individual here in the CNMI. And that's not about convenience," he said. "Again, we're always concerned about community spread. And that's why we're always on our toes to make sure that we do that—cover our frontline, which is the airport." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PUA

From Page 1

by whatever their current active employment status is," she said.

Benavente said even if a PUA claimant submits their CW-1 visa and chooses to withhold their recently acquired EAD, it is part of the adjudication process to verify an individual's immigration status with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Department of Homeland Security.

"We verify the PUA claimant's most recent status with federal sites, whatever it is, and that's what we go by. Before, the same process took us three to five days, now because they're so overwhelmed, it's taking a week to two weeks to get it verified," she said.

Benavente said it is unfortunate situation for those who are affected and the CNMI administration has tried reaching out to the U.S. Department of Labor to ask it for consideration, to no avail.

"Unfortunately, this is something that we have asked, the governor has asked, we have asked for reconsideration for our EAD workers. And when we sent that request, I believe a couple of months ago, we did not receive an official response," she said.

Although the department wants to help everyone who is suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic, Benavente said they still need to follow strict mandates so as not to jeopardize other federal funding that the CNMI receives.

"We've always tried to help all claimants but we still have to follow every mandate from the USDOL. It is difficult because we want to help everyone who's in a situation of unemployment, unemployed or reduce hours. Unfortunately, the law says, in particular, CW-1 qualifies but not EADs," she said.

BUDGET

From Page 1

ence committee's report, essentially passing the budget legislation, House Bill 22-74, in the form of HD3, SD1, Conference Committee Substitute 1. One senator was absent.

Before the voting, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said he called for the emergency session because they need to tackle this budget bill so Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will have enough time to review the budget numbers.

The full House of Representatives is also expected to adopt the bicameral conference committee's report and pass the budget bill during their regular session tomorrow, Thursday.

After the House's passage of the budget bill, the legislation will then be submitted to Torres' table for his signature before the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2021. Without a budget for the new fiscal year, the CNMI government will be forced to have a partial shutdown.

Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), who is the Senate chairperson on the conference committee, said they identified $144,848,801 in total budgetary resources from the general revenue for fiscal year 2022. Minus debt service in the total amount of $45,951,500, this leaves the government $98,897,301 that's available for appropriation. Including the $4,487,022 budget for the Department of Public Lands, the grand total revenue available for appropriation is $103,384,323.

Hocog said that combining the general fund and the $175 million allocated to the CNMI in the American Rescue Plan Act, the CNMI government will have at its disposal a total of $278,384,323 in fiscal year 2022.

He said before he moved for the approval of the $103.38 million available resources to fund the operations of the CNMI during fiscal year 2022, he should also point out some of the aspects on the revenue estimate of $144.84 million as well as where the funding sources of the $103.38 million will be used in the operation and activities of the CNMI government.

Hocog said when the revenue estimate of $144.84 million is compared to fiscal year 2021 revenue estimate of $144.4 million, it shows a slight increase of $400,000. He said such slight increase from FY 2021 level indicates that FY 2022 projection on the revenue estimate appears conservative due to the negative economic effect caused by COVID-19.

Hocog said with the CNMI's economy shutdown because of the pandemic, the CNMI has been receiving financial assistance from the federal government, such as the CARE Act and the American Rescue Plan Act.

"We are aware of the emergence of several deadly variants…but we remain vigilant and optimistic that, if we work together as a team, nothing is impossible to accomplish," he said.

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) commended and thanked the chairpersons of the conference committee and members for mutually agreeing on majority of the provisions and allocations in the proposed budget, which resulted in a quick product of both houses. Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) is the House chairperson on the conference committee.

Santos thanked the conferees for ensuring that 25% is allocated to the Public School System, and for maintaining the allocation for the Northern Marianas College and the municipalities of Rota and Tinian—as provided in the Senate version—considering that the prices of goods, services, water and air transportation are higher.

The senator also applauded restoring Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s budget allocation as initially proposed by the House and providing clarity as to the responsibility in the interisland medical referral program or services.

COVID-19

From Page 1

COVID-19, with 50 of the 78 being unvaccinated.

CHCC said Tuesday that the two new cases were identified by travel screening, and were confirmed positive through fifth-day and arrival testing on Sept. 20. The two have been quarantined and are being monitored, and CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for those who were in closest contact with the two travelers.

In Guam, the JIC reported that the island's 180th and 181st COVID-19-related death occurred last Friday and Sunday.

The 180th death was a vaccinated 39-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive for COVID-19 on Sept. 14 and was pronounced dead at the Guam Regional Medical City on Sept. 17.

The 181st death was an unvaccinated 75-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive for COVID-19 on Sept. 14, and was pronounced dead at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Sept. 19.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero offered her condolences and recognized the tireless work of healthcare workers in Guam as they combat the virus. For the community to do its part, Leon Guerrero urged Guam to mask up, wash their hands, maintain social distancing, and get vaccinated against COVID-19.

"Our hearts are dismayed as more lives are claimed by this indiscriminate disease. As we think of those lost to this pandemic, let us also remember the countless healthcare providers tirelessly working behind the scenes. We can give them some reprieve by protecting ourselves and protecting one another with options that work, including wearing our masks, washing our hands, watching our distance, and getting vaccinated," she said.

PFIZER

From Page 1

■■■

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said this new development is "welcome news" and that CHCC will wait on further approval from the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for how to proceed.

"[Pfizer's announcement is] definitely welcome news. We want the protection we're seeing in adults to be available for children, especially for those who are immunocompromised. We will wait for approval from FDA and CDC and, once given, instructions to all health agencies will follow," said Muña.

■■■

For elementary school-aged kids, Pfizer tested a much lower dose—a third of the amount that's in each shot given now. Yet after their second dose, children ages 5 to 11 developed coronavirus-fighting antibody levels just as strong as teenagers and young adults getting the regular-strength shots, Dr. Bill Gruber, a Pfizer senior vice president, told The Associated Press.

The kid dosage also proved safe, with similar or fewer temporary side effects—such as sore arms, fever or achiness—that teens experience, he said.

"I think we really hit the sweet spot," said Gruber, who's also a pediatrician.

Gruber said the companies aim to apply to the Food and Drug Administration by the end of the month for emergency use in this age group, followed shortly afterward with applications to European and British regulators.

Earlier this month, FDA chief Dr. Peter Marks told the AP that once Pfizer turns over its study results, his agency would evaluate the data "hopefully in a matter of weeks" to decide if the shots are safe and effective enough for younger kids.

An outside expert said scientists want to see more details but called the report encouraging.

"These topline results are very good news," said Dr. Jesse Goodman of Georgetown University, a former FDA vaccine chief. The level of immune response Pfizer reported "appears likely to be protective."

Many Western countries so far have vaccinated no younger than age 12, awaiting evidence of what's the right dose and that it works safely. Cuba last week began immunizing children as young as 2 with its homegrown vaccines and Chinese regulators have cleared two of its brands down to age 3.

While kids are at lower risk of severe illness or death than older people, more than 5 million children in the U.S. have tested positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic began and at least 460 have died, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Cases in children have risen as the delta variant swept through the country.

"I feel a great sense of urgency" in making the vaccine available to children under 12, Gruber said. "There's pent-up demand for parents to be able to have their children returned to a normal life."

In New Jersey, 10-year-old Maya Huber asked why she couldn't get vaccinated like her parents and both teen brothers have. Her mother, Dr. Nisha Gandhi, a critical care physician at Englewood Hospital, enrolled Maya in the Pfizer study at Rutgers University. But the family hasn't eased up on their masking and other virus precautions until they learn if Maya received the real vaccine or a dummy shot.

Once she knows she's protected, Maya's first goal: "a huge sleepover with all my friends."

Maya said it was exciting to be part of the study even though she was "super scared" about getting jabbed. But "after you get it, at least you feel like happy that you did it and relieved that it didn't hurt," she told the AP.

Pfizer said it studied the lower dose in 2,268 kindergartners and elementary school-aged kids. The FDA required what is called an immune "bridging" study: evidence that the younger children developed antibody levels already proven to be protective in teens and adults. That's what Pfizer reported Monday in a press release, not a scientific publication. The study still is ongoing, and there haven't yet been enough COVID-19 cases to compare rates between the vaccinated and those given a placebo—something that might offer additional evidence.

The study isn't large enough to detect any extremely rare side effects, such as the heart inflammation that sometimes occurs after the second dose, mostly in young men. The FDA's Marks said the pediatric studies should be large enough to rule out any higher risk to young children. Pfizer's Gruber said once the vaccine is authorized for younger children, they'll be carefully monitored for rare risks just like everyone else.

A second U.S. vaccine maker, Moderna, also is studying its shots in elementary school-aged children. Pfizer and Moderna are studying even younger tots as well, down to 6-month-olds. Results are expected later in the year. ***(With Joshua Santos/Saipan Tribune)***

JGO postpones hearing CUC Camacho's testimony

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho was ready yesterday to testify before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, only to be told that the hearing is being canceled due to the inoperable air-conditioning system at the House's chamber.

JGO Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said yesterday that they were supposed to convene in the House chamber and move to the Senate chamber due to lack of air-conditioning in the House chamber but then the Senate called for an emergency session yesterday regarding the budget bill.

Babauta said she moved the hearing to this Friday at 10am.

It was not immediately learned when the air-conditioning system at the House chamber broke down. "We lost track of when it broke down," Babauta said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Camacho arrived at the House yesterday at 10am without a lawyer. He was later seen talking with some JGO members in the House speaker's conference room.

Babauta said they did speak with Camacho beforehand because they usually give every witness an opportunity to meet with the committee members informally. She said most witnesses are willing to do so, while some do not at the advice of their lawyers.

She said they usually walk through with the witnesses how the proceeding will go and if they have any questions. "We can answer them during the informal conversation," she said.

Babauta said they simply told Camacho the subject areas that they will be asking questions on, but they did not provide any specifics. "This is just to avoid any impediments during the hearing," she added.

The JGO is investigating Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

CNMI veterans urged to check if they qualify for service dogs

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Military veterans in the CNMI are being encouraged to check if they qualify for service dogs. To qualify for one, a veteran must be diagnosed as having a psychological, visual, hearing, or substantial mobility impairment.

Stanley T. Iakopo, executive officer for the Office of Military Affairs, said in an an email last Friday that veterans will need to discuss physical or mental limitations with their healthcare providers to determine if a service dog will be an appropriate treatment approach and, if needed, veterans can choose to meet with a medical provider through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Once deemed qualified to receive a service dog, the DVA will refer veterans to accredited agencies such as Assistance Dog International or the International Guide Dog Federation, and the DVA through VA Benefits will cover the costs of veterinary care—which includes prescribed medications, office visits for medical procedures, and dental procedures where the dog is sedated—and costs of equipment that are required for optimal use of the dog, such as backpacks and harnesses.

Iakopo added that the dog's vaccination records will be up-to-date upon a veteran receiving the dog through an accredited agency and that the cost of these vaccinations is covered by the DVA. Iakopo clarified, however, that the DVA will not pay for the dog itself, or for over-the-counter medications, boarding, food, grooming, and other routine expenses.

When asked what breeds these service dogs may be, Iakopo said that Labradors and Golden Retrievers are the most popular, and added that these service dogs can be German Shepherds, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Poodles, Collies, or Great Danes.

Iakopo said that "service dogs are much more than emotional support" and mentioned research from the VA that speaks on the benefits of having a service dog. Iakopo added that it is important for CNMI veterans and veterans elsewhere to seek the medical help that they need, and said that prescribing veterans a plethora of medications is not the only option.

"Research from the VA has concluded that service dogs are a proven therapy for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, [and] that they can also reduce the amount of medication some veterans require for treatment and alleviate their overall symptoms. ...We have to get out of the mindset of just providing drugs to vets as if that's their only option," said Iakopo.

For more information, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs can be contacted at 664-2650.

ARMATECH

Xeeder RFID Hotel Door Locks Installer and Repairer

Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

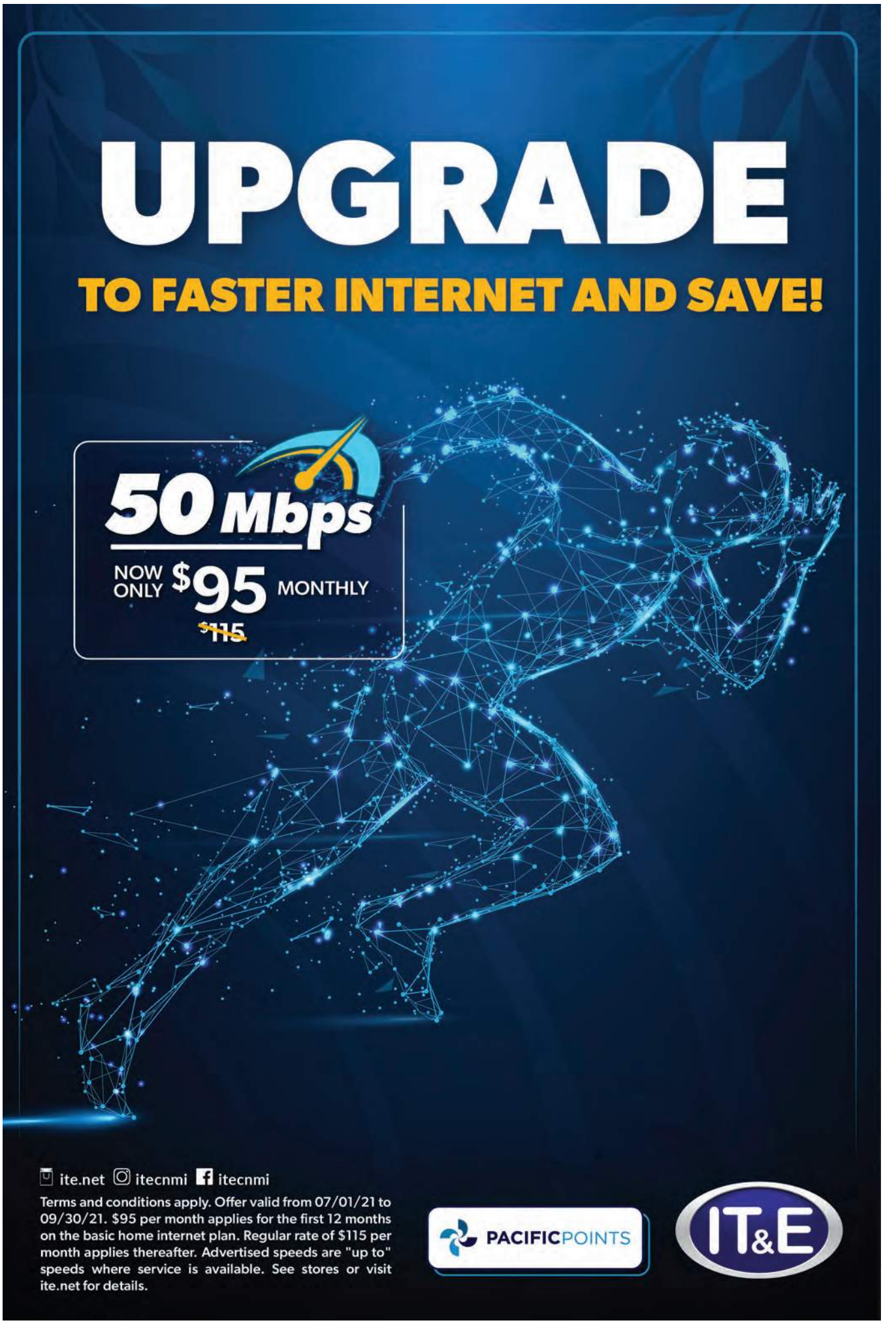
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on ***Friday, September 24, 2021 at 8:00a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes - (from June 11, 2021)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
VII. Director's Report
- Financial Report
- NCEES 2021 Annual Business ZOOM Meeting
- NCARB MBE Committee Member
- Update on the Appraisal Regulations Ad Hoc Committee
- Current Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects Regulations

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
XII. New Business
XIII. Applications for Board's Review
XIV. Miscellaneous Business
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting


UPGRADE
TO FASTER INTERNET AND SAVE!
50 Mbps
NOW ONLY $95 MONTHLY
$115
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid from 07/01/21 to 09/30/21. $95 per month applies for the first 12 months on the basic home internet plan. Regular rate of $115 per month applies thereafter. Advertised speeds are "up to" speeds where service is available. See stores or visit ite.net for details.
PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

NMPASI

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION: PROGRAM AIDE
PAY-LEVEL: P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10
REPORTS TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:
This is a non-exempt position responsible for the day-to-day administrative functions of the office and its programs. The Program Aide reports to the Executive Director and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ At least a High School Diploma or its equivalence including a GED and other similar certificates;
- ✓ Must be proficient in computer usage including but not limited to word processing and spreadsheet applications;
- ✓ Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license; and
- ✓ Must be able to operate various office equipment including but not limited to telephones, faxes, and copier machines.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] /(670) 287-0652 [message] or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Deadline for applications will be on September 30, 2021 at 5pm.

Deadline nears to submit CCR to OPA

This is to remind all reporting agencies that the Citizen-Centric Report for fiscal year 2021 is due on Oct. 30, 2021. Forward all reports to mail@opacnmi.com. Failure to file may result in a penalty of $50 per day for first time offenses and $100 per day for second or subsequent offenses until the violation is cured.

The CCR is a four-page report that was created by the Association of Government Accountants as a way to simplify communication between the government and its citizens. The 20th NMI Legislature passed Public Law 20-83, which requires all agencies to file a CCR.

This law requires CCR submissions by "every secretary, director, administrator, president or head of a Commonwealth agency, including line departments and agencies, autonomous and semiautonomous agencies, public corporations, the Mayor's Offices, Municipal Councils and boards and commissions." An electronic copy of the report shall be submitted to the Office of the Public Auditor and the presiding officers of the Legislature. Additionally, the report shall be posted on the website of the entity, the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Public Auditor, and the CNMI Legislature.

For more information, visit the OPA website at http://opacnmi.com or contact the OPA office at (670) 322-6481/2. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

UOG to host free online session on Advanced Care Planning

Man'amko and their families will have an opportunity to learn about advanced care planning in two upcoming live Zoom sessions hosted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program under the University of Guam School of Health. Advanced care planning is the process of discussing and choosing future health care and medical treatment options.

The sessions will be led by Annamma Varghese, an assisting professor of nursing at UOG who holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, and Dr. Delores J. Lee, a family medicine physician at Evergreen Health Center.

The sessions are free to members of the public in Guam and throughout Micronesia.

To register, visit the following links:

■ 9am–10am on Saturday, Sept. 25: https://zoom.us/j/93633129791

■ 9am–10am on Tuesday, Sept. 28: https://zoom.us/j/94643880889

For more information, call (671) 735-0109 or email uog.gwep@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars in September. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Sept. 23, 2021: FAR Clauses Explained-**Confused by all the FAR clauses referenced in government solicitations? The Guam PTAC will demystify these Federal Acquisition Regulations. Join us as we explain many of the common FAR clauses found in Federal solicitations.

■ **Sept. 30, 2021**: **Government of Guam Procurement-** The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam Procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

To register, visit the PTAC website at http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-21-032

SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION (SCADA) FOR POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for a turn-key design and implementation (Design, Supply and Installation) of SCADA system at its Primary Power Plant (Power Plant No.1), Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The award of this project is under the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-032, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on October 13, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 22, 2021** to manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC's Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-036

Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $25.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-036, Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on October 15, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 23, 2021** to Manny Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John C. Mafnas, Contracts Officer at john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Norbert Sulapas is recognized as the 2021 Employee of the 2nd Quarter at the McDonald's main store on Middle Road.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christopher Loyd Bantolino is recognized as the 2021 Employee of the 2nd Quarter at the McDonald's Garapan store.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's Saipan honors two employees

McDonald's Saipan has recognized Norbert Sulapas and Christopher Loyd Bantolino as its employees of the second quarter based on their demonstration of behaviors that deliver a great experience for customers and fellow employees. That means always looking for ways to make the experience special for every McDonald's customer; working with the team to deliver high standards; and having energy and enthusiasm. ***(PR)***

From left, Haggan/Woong United for Recovery program manager Herbert J. Sablan, president Wilma Villanueva, director TaAnn Kabua-Demapan, treasurer Dr. Nelson Krum, and secretary Queayla Sablan share a photo holding up the $25,000 check that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation gave to the organization last week.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Haggan/ Woong United for Recovery gets $25,000

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a community of support for those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction called Haggan/Woong United for Recovery recently received a $25,000 check from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, which the organization will be using to support the hiring of a program manager and to further build the organization's foundation.

Herbert J. Sablan, Haggan/Woong United for Recovery program manager, said they received the $25,000 check from SNILD on Sept. 15 and that it was "perfect timing", since September is National Recovery Month in the CNMI. Speaking on behalf of the organization, Sablan thanked SNILD chair Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan and the other members of the committee for their support.

In addition to financially supporting the hiring of a program manager, the $25,000 is a big help for the organization as it develops its standard operating procedures and develops what it will call a "Peer Support/ Recovery Coach Program," which will be a service that connects those going through recovery with individuals who can provide much-needed support.

When asked what is Haggan/Woong United for Recovery's purpose, Sablan said the organization's goal is to guide those who need help toward lifelong recovery and to combat the stigma surrounding those suffering from addiction.

"[Haggan Woong United for Recovery's goal] is to empower the community by providing support and guidance to those seeking lifelong recovery. The organization seeks to demonstrate that recovery is possible, through combatting stigma and contributing to the efforts of service providers, advocates, and champions in the community that is working hard to create a safer and healthier CNMI," said Sablan.

"Haggan" is a Chamorro word and "Woong" is a Carolinian word. Both translate to "turtle."

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp I Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tel. No. (670) 234-6866/7447 I Fax: (670) 234-9021

Public Hearing Notice

Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Plan
Monday, September 20, 2021

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, is seeking public input on the HAF Plan to implement the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) created by the American Rescue Plan Act. NMHC anticipates to submit the plan to Treasury by September 30, 2021.

The HAF Plan is now available for review at www.nmhcgov.net.

The NMHC will hold a virtual hearing on the HAF Plan on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. See below for additional information about the public hearing. To ensure all interested persons are able to offer comments in the time allotted for the public hearing, each individual must limit comments to no more than two minutes. NMHC is also accepting written comments on the HAF Plan. Written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 2021. Written comments can be submitted directly to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation located in Garapan, Saipan, and also to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices.

Notice of Public Hearing on HAF Draft Implementation Framework:

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Access Information: See Zoom Conferencing details on www.nmhcgov.net; Facebook: Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Agenda:
- Brief presentation on the HAF Plan
- Public comments

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Calling for
NOMINATIONS

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting nominations for the 2021 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

- **Research and Publication in the Humanities;**
- **Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;**
- **Preservation of CNMI History; and**
- **Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).**

A fifth category, **Lifetime Achievement**, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. The award may be given posthumously. The nomination form and instructions can be downloaded at www.nmhcouncil.org. Paper copies are available at the council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai. Nominations may be made by any member of the general public and are due no later than 4:00 pm on Friday October 1, 2021.

Awards will be presented at a special ceremony in October (time, date and venue to be announced) For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785 or 235-4787.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 183
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

When government grows, so will taxes

Most of us agree that tax law should be fair and equitable and that government spending should stay within fiscal means. But when the spending wish list grows, the reflexive response is to find someone or something to tax.

The Biden administration's $3.5 trillion domestic spending package is a prime example of taxes chasing spending. The plan is too expensive, and they know it, and the proof rests in the many ways the Democrats want to pay for it.

A tax plan from House Democrats proposes to raise $2.9 trillion to pay for the spending, in part by hiking the corporate tax rate from the Trump-era 21% to 26.5% for big businesses and slapping a surcharge on individuals who make more than $5 million.

The top tax rate for capital gains also would climb to 25%, up from 20%, and the top marginal income tax rate would increase to 39.6% from 37% for households with taxable income over $450,000 and for unmarried individuals with taxable income greater than $400,000.

Surely that pays for the president's spending, right? No, it doesn't. Revenue from these measures doesn't pay for the entire $3.5 trillion package.

We know what that means. Money is going to be borrowed, the search will continue for other things to tax or the gap will be artfully explained away through budgetary gimmicks like dynamic scoring to assert that economic activity generated by this federal spending will produce the additional revenue. Moreover, the real cost likely will be substantially greater than the projection and will be an anvil on future generations.

It's a bit of a misrepresentation to suggest that these tax changes only negatively impact the uber-rich. It's much broader.

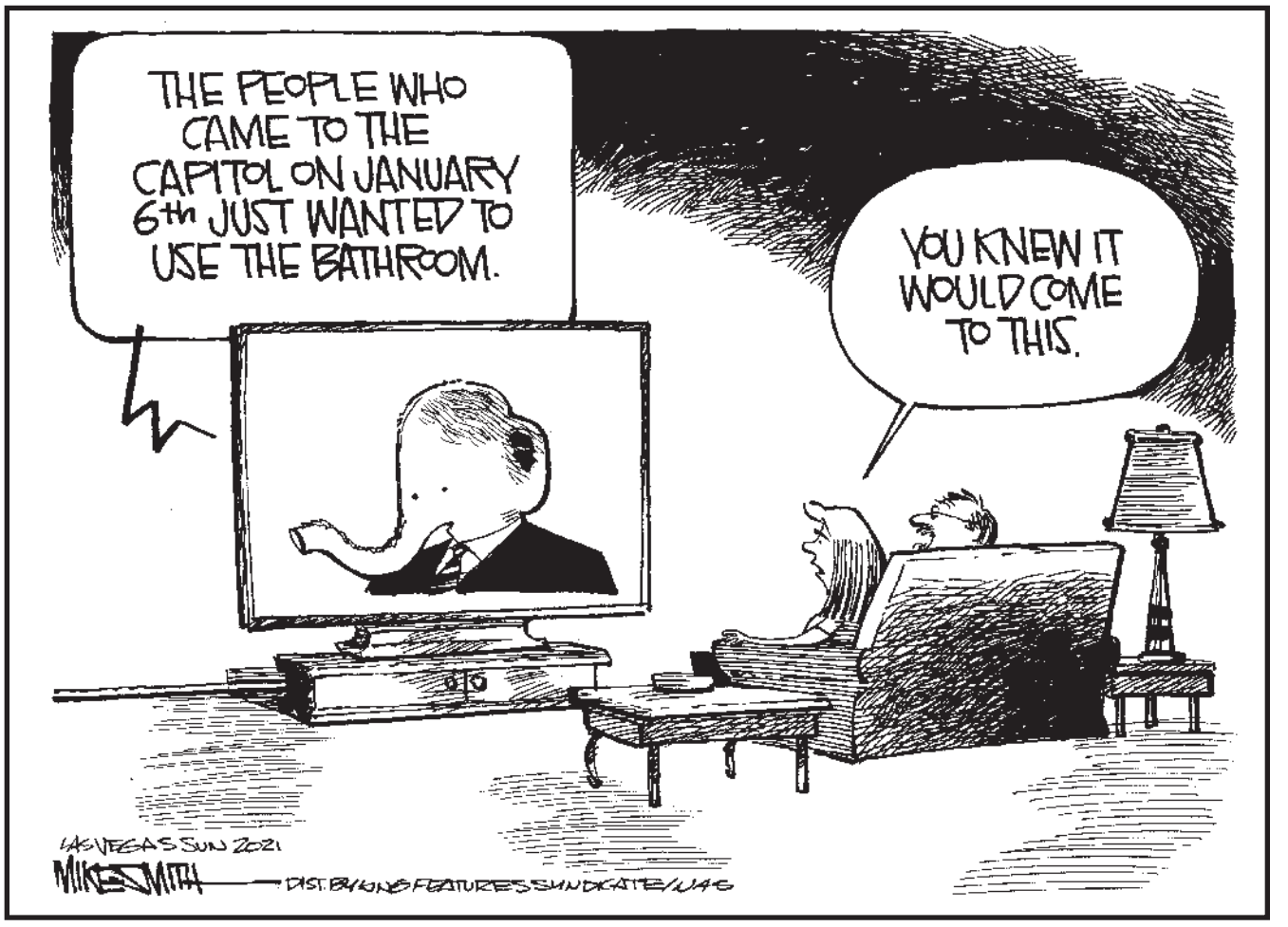
Under current tax law, the top rate kicks in at taxable income of $523,600 for individuals and $628,300 for married couples. The Democrats' plan not only is at a higher rate but kicks in at a level that is $123,000 lower for individuals and $178,300 lower for married couples. These folks are financially better off than most Americans, but it is clear that Democrats are willing to dip deeper and deeper into the tax brackets for revenue.

The looming threats of debt, deficits, big spending, heavy taxing and inflation make for a generational witch's brew. Debt saddles future generations with crushing obligations. Inflation and taxes erode the spending and investment opportunities of individuals and businesses and slow overall economic growth.

Inattentiveness to rising debt and postponing investments in the nation's future have been a bipartisan failing for decades. Regardless of whether a portion of the spending is paid for with new taxes and revenue from the expiration of the Trump-era tax cuts, or put on the national tab as a massive IOU, the overall trajectory is unsustainable.

The Biden administration and democrats could use some realism. While investments must be made in the nation's future, taxing and spending schemes have limits. Raising more money for future investments is not as simplistic as raising taxes. The goal should promote opportunities for personal and collective economic growth, too.

©2021 The Dallas Morning News


THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO THE CAPITOL ON JANUARY 6th JUST WANTED TO USE THE BATHROOM.
YOU KNEW IT WOULD COME TO THIS.
LAS VEGAS SUN 2021
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/UAS

Democrats' $3.5 trillion spending plan is about to get a trim. They should be happy

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.

The battle over Democrats' ambitious spending plan is heating up in Congress, but one piece of the outcome is already clear: The $3.5 trillion price tag is being whittled down.

That will disappoint progressives, who see the budget plan as their best chance in a generation to enact big changes in domestic policy from universal pre-K and free community college to expanded Medicare and Medicaid and subsidies for clean energy.

But as a practical political matter, it's a good thing for Democratic members of Congress who face tough races in 2022—and for their party's tenuous chances of retaining its razor-thin majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives.

Here's the Democrats' problem: Most of the individual spending proposals in the plan are broadly popular among voters, but that doesn't necessarily translate into solid support for the whole package.

A USA Today/Suffolk University poll last month found that the spending plan was supported by a bare majority, 52%, of Americans—and that was before Republicans began barraging the proposal with objections, aimed mostly at the price. (A "massive, reckless taxing and spending spree," Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said last week.)

"There are things [in the plan] that voters think are valuable: nursing homes, child care, pre-K," Republican pollster David Winston said. "But people question whether the country can do them at a reasonable cost."

Some Democrats worry about the cost, too.

Sen. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, the most conservative Democrat in the Senate, has long said $3.5 trillion is too much—and in a 50-50 chamber, the plan can't pass without his vote.

Manchin isn't the only stumbling block. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona has also objected to the price tag. Sen. Jon Tester of Montana says he won't support any plan that includes deficit spending. Others have expressed qualms privately, especially over proposals for higher taxes.

Sen. Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, a practiced vote-counter, injected a dose of reality into the debate last week: $3.5 trillion is a "starting point for negotiation," he said. "It's not necessarily the endpoint."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, trying to keep progressives in her caucus lined up behind the plan, has described it in expansive terms.

"It's not incremental," she brags. "It's transformational."

Wrong message, Democratic pollster David Shor, a former campaign aide to President Barack Obama, told me.

"I would ban that word," he said. "Most people don't want bold, inspirational change. They want bite-size things."

If Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Charles E. Schumer of New York pass a plan even half the size of the $3.5 trillion that's under debate, it would still be a titanic achievement. And less focus on that top-line number might allow Democrats to focus attention on parts of the plan that are both broadly popular and easy to understand.

"There are benefits to having easy-to-describe things that people like," Shor argued.

He recently polled voters on a list of 193 policy priorities, including many in the budget plan.

The most popular: empowering the federal government to negotiate prescription drug prices down. High on the list: adding dental benefits to Medicare (a favorite of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders) and increasing Social Security payments.

Not as high: federal subsidies for child care.

"Giving things to old people is a real political winner; they're sympathetic and there are a lot of them," Shor noted. "The political upside of child care is more limited. Relatively few people are parents at any given time."

Even lower in popularity: spending to combat climate change.

"Most people don't care about climate change very much, except for very liberal white people," Shor warned. "Almost everyone else thinks poverty is more important than climate change."

Those are the elements that Democrats will be debating, along with proposals for higher income taxes on the wealthy and higher taxes on corporations.

They already know they face an uphill battle in the 2022 congressional elections. The party that holds the White House almost invariably loses seats two years after a presidential election.

Their best chance to defy those odds probably lies in passing a much slimmer budget plan—one that focuses, as Shor advises, on measures with broad public support.

And if Manchin and other Senate moderates hold firm, they won't have much choice.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Budget choice: Kids or billionaires

By DORIAN WARREN
Progressive Perspectives

Dorian Warren, a longtime organizer and progressive scholar, serves as co-president of Community Change and Community Change Action, and co-chair of the Economic Security Project.

In August, both houses of Congress passed a $3.5 trillion budget resolution to fund policies to help working families recover from a pandemic recession. Though the proposal is subject to further tinkering, the need for it is undeniable.

The expansion of the child tax credit, part of an earlier approved spending package, is already showing huge returns for families, saving 3 million children from poverty in just its first month. New data from the Niskanen Center shows that extending this policy could generate an estimated $27.6 billion in consumer spending in just one year.

Making permanent a program that has already proven to be a success sounds like a no-brainer. But some conservatives say it's too expensive. What they mean is, if we spend more on children, there will be less left to line their wealthy friends' pockets.

Big business from PhRMA to Exxon are lobbying to remove tax increases on the ultra-wealthy and policy changes to lower prescription drug costs from the reconciliation package. They decry the price tag of the reconciliation package while ignoring that a tax stimulus targeted to lower income or unemployed people, like the expanded child tax credit, is two to three times more effective in increasing spending than one targeted to the upper class.

That's because families receiving the checks put a portion of that into consuming goods and services and a portion into their savings or toward their financial health. Their dollars spent at local businesses become income for the owners and workers, who now also have more disposable income to bolster the local economy.

In contrast, despite claims of "trickle-down economics," policies that offer tax credits and cuts to the rich do not similarly boost the economy. Rich people already have all the money to buy goods and services. A tax cut for them only serves to further concentrate their wealth.

But for average Americans struggling to make ends meet, a monthly, flexible-use cash advance allows them to finally afford a laptop or new clothes for school, that car repair or maybe even a dinner out. That's why it's so critical that Congress got rid of minimum earnings requirements and made the child tax credit fully refundable, so that the benefits went to parents who needed it the most.

Organizers at Community Change Action, the national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., for which I serve as co-president, work every day with people in need to make sure they get the payments for which they are eligible. We hear stories of folks like Gisella, a farmworker from western Massachusetts who will use the payments to sustain her family in the off season. Or Mary Rheinhold from West Virginia, who is using her monthly checks to buy basics like toiletries and special treats like ice cream for her 7-year-old daughter.

The implications are significant for state and local economies that have been gutted by COVID-19 layoffs and shutdowns. In Gisella's home state of Massachusetts, more than $460 million has been added to consumer spending, supporting more than 6,600 full-time jobs. In Mary's state of West Virginia, it's more than $145 million in consumer spending and more than 3,000 jobs.

For conservatives worried about budgetary costs, simple math tells us that continuing these payments to families is the best way to cut the child poverty rate and generate revenue to help local businesses bounce back.

The debate comes down to this: should we lift children out of poverty and give them the chance at a bright future, or continue to bankroll billionaire space races?

Why Democrats can't pay for their ambitions

By RICH LOWRY
(c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Benjamin Franklin was right about death and taxes, but new taxes only become inevitable when a Democrat is elected president, and here we are.

The House Ways and Means Committee released an outline of tax proposals to offset President Biden's jaw-dropping spending plans, and it's the expected assortment of tax increases on business and the affluent that Democrats like to pretend can fund a social welfare state of the sort that Bernie Sanders has long pined and advocated for.

The individual tax rate would increase from 37% to 39.6%, the capital gains rate from 20% to 25%, and the corporate tax rate from 21% to 26.5 %, among sundry other provisions befitting the hideously complex U.S. tax regime.

It's a sign of the scope of Biden plans that the committee version represents a step back from his tax proposals, yet still clocks in at an enormous $2.2 trillion in estimated new revenue over ten years.

The corporate taxes are particularly noxious. Democrats love the politics of taxing corporations, based on the lazy and wrong-headed idea that the corporate tax is the way to stick it to executives and shareholders. To the contrary, if businesses are taxed at a higher rate, they have less resources available the capital investments that improve worker productivity over time. This ultimately means lower wages for workers.

It is telling that no one is talking about going back up to the pre-Trump rate of 35%.

According to the Tax Foundation, a top corporate rate of 28%, the level that Biden favors, would once again give the U.S. the highest rate in the OECD at 32.3% once state level corporate taxes are factored in as well. France currently has the highest rate but is set to reduce it next year.

What's the sense in instantly making the business environment in the United States less favorable and giving a competitive advantage to foreign countries?

While the Way and Means draft rejects Biden proposals such as taking the capital gains rate all the way up to 39% (!), it does everything it can to try to hold anyone making less than $400,000 harmless. As The Washington Post puts it, "The efforts are designed to avoid even the appearance of affecting middle- and lower-income households."

This is where the Democrats are willing to talk the talk about a cradle-to-grave welfare state, but not walk the walk. There can be no European-style welfare state, at least not sustainably so, without European-style taxes.

The dirty secret about the Scandinavian countries that the left constantly holds up as a model is that they aren't afraid to tax the middle class. These alleged models of social justice tax more than we do and tax much more broadly, realizing that taxing the rich and corporations isn't enough to fund extensive and generous social programs.

The Tax Foundation calculates that if the U.S. had a tax system comparable to Denmark, we would be taxing all income over $70,000 at 55.9%, Denmark's top rate.

The Ways and Means tax hikes would, sure enough, create Denmark-like rates. As Robert Frank of CNBC notes, the combined state and federal top tax rates in New York City would be 61.2%, in California 59.7%, and in New Jersey 57.2%. But the rates wouldn't reach down into the middle class. In fact, Democrats from high state taxes are determined to raise the cap on federal tax deductions for state and local taxes—limited in Donald Trump's tax reform—to reduce the tax bite on their relatively affluent constituents.

Maybe don't increase taxes in the first place?

Indeed, rather than trying to spend historic amounts of money while their slender majorities last, it'd be better for the country if Democrats sought to fund their priorities by reallocating dollars within the already vast federal budget. But standing the aforementioned Benjamin Franklin on his head, they believe that a trillion saved is a trillion wasted.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Injustices

The handwriting is on the wall as to the devastation caused by #45, which I even predicted in 2018 in my book, *The Audacity to Change*. Many of the states' justice systems in America have turned into the most injustice aspects of governing in America since days of the "black codes and segregation." The idea of "united we stand" has been literally thrown out the window with the defiance of too many Americans who refuse to even wear a mask. Republican-controlled state legislatures and governors are contributing to the injustices and the great divide in our efforts to end the war with COVID. The Republicans in Texas have even thrown the morality of humanity into the trash can with their abortion restriction law that offers no real protection nor rights for women and victims of rape and incest. If a rape victim is forced to deliver a baby, they should sue Texas and the Supreme Court.

To make it worse, #45 even weaponized the Republicans as tools to create injustices in voting to simply make it harder for Blacks to vote. You can't even give a person water if they are standing in line to vote, which is absolutely ridiculous. Thanks to the many injustices of Mitch McConnell, #45 was even able to weaponize our Supreme Court that has allowed the brutal attack and the breach of *Roe v Wade* to go unchecked, which was a desecrating act by the Supreme Court. I am truly ashamed of Clarence Thomas' autograph on my James Madison Fellow diploma he signed for me.

But if you had read my book, you wouldn't be surprised at all about all the injustices in America, compounded by the rise of white supremacy and domestic terrorism. America didn't see all these evil injustices on the horizon until it was too late, which is evident in how the many attacks by domestic terrorists and the attack on the capitol were a total surprise. America is quickly becoming a nation of injustices that is "divided as we stand" and we owe it all to #45 for reviving a dying racist ideology, even promoting individual rights over the rights of all. America hasn't been this divided socially and politically since the Civil War era. Bipartisanship is now obsolete and we the people even have a Democrat, Joe Manchin, who is helping the divide with his "la la land diplomacy ideology," thinking Republicans are somehow going to change. It's lunacy, because if we don't learn our lessons, the mistakes are doomed to continue.

I not only predicted the recent pitfalls that America is now in as a result of #45, I also wrote about the two Black Wall Streets in my 2018 book *The Audacity to Chang*e and in my recent book, *MaDear*. Only now are the Black Wall Streets being remembered and recognized for the injustices perpetrated by whites. I even predicted the "phony American diplomacy" by #45 with Russia and how America could really deal with North Korea. We can do more to change N. Korea with chocolate candy and food than bombs. America is virtually right back where we started with Russia, Iran, China, and North Korea, making the last four years wasted foreign policy.

The injustices in America are fueled by the many white Americans who have been led down the path of fear, be it in voting and political power, our social evolution that is making whites the minority, and even fear of a proven vaccine. We are now on the precipice and, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "We have some difficult days ahead" to become united, especially for the CNMI when it comes to getting rid of these corrupt Republicans!

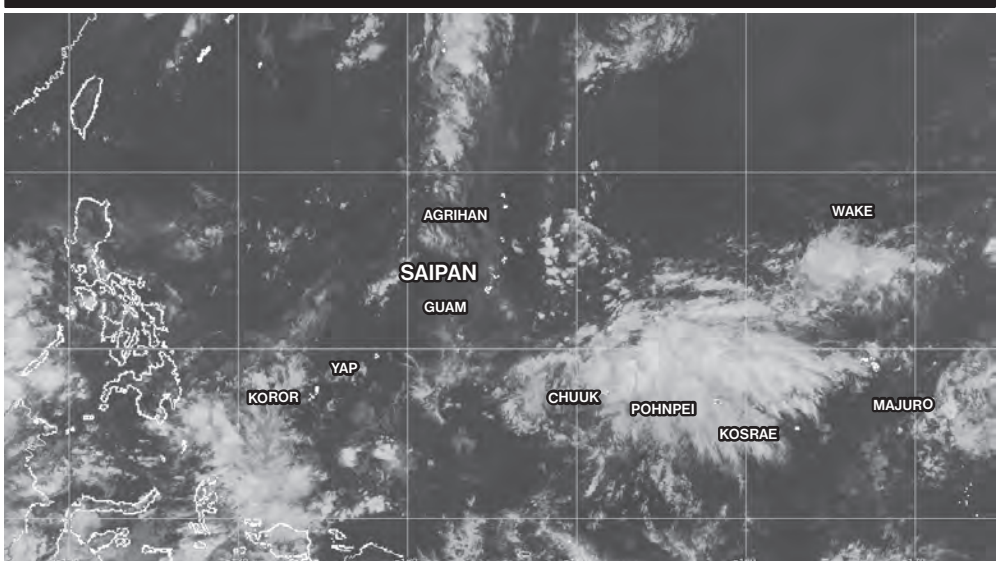
Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
86° 77°	86° 77°	86° 77°	86° 77°	86° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:47 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Quiet weather continues across the Marianas this morning, with mainly gentle northeast winds, and only a few clouds and isolated brief showers seen in satellite imagery. The Ipan buoy is showing seas around 3 feet, the east component of 4-to-5-foot combined seas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	80 / 89 °F
Palau	Partly sunny	80 / 86 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	76 / 91 °F
Chuuk	Afternoon clouds	78 / 89 °F
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	78 / 87 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	82 / 87 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	82 / 87 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:53 AM	7:12 PM
Thursday	-	7:42 AM	7:48 PM
Friday	-	8:30 AM	8:25 PM
Saturday	-	9:19 AM	9:04 PM
Sunday	-	10:09 AM	9:45 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	45 / 53 °F
Beijing	Mostly sunny	59 / 90 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	73 / 83 °F
London	Morning clouds	60 / 73 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	64 / 78 °F
Manila	Partly sunny	79 / 91 °F
Melbourne	Heavy rain	55 / 62 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	80 / 87 °F
New York	Light showers	79 / 89 °F
Osaka	Mostly sunny	67 / 83 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	51 / 80 °F
Pusan	Morning clouds	69 / 81 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	62 / 85 °F
Salem	Sunny	49 / 83 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	56 / 66 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	65 / 80 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	75 / 86 °F
Washington, DC	High level clouds	75 / 91 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:33 AM	Low Tide	0.59
8:13 AM	High Tide	1.89
2:43 PM	Low Tide	0.40
8:39 PM	High Tide	1.87

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	3
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	3
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

PSS undergo training on data systems linked to student learning

The Public School System's Office of Accountability, Research and Evaluation held a professional development yesterday at Laoalao Bay Golf & Resort on an overview of how data driven systems are building a bridge among data systems from Head Start/Early Head Start Program and kindergarten through Grade 12.

Peggy Feldman, an expert from DBDriven, a Virginia-based next-generation data and information warehouse, was brought in by PSS-ARE for the professional development. Senior director Rizalina P. Liwag, Ed.D, leads PSS-ARE.

The professional development was for the members of the CNM Board of Education and PSS key management.

BOE chair Andrew L. Orsini and Tinian board member Antonio L. Borja represented the policymaking and governing board of the school district.

Others at the professional development were acting education commissioner Eric Magofna, Liwag, senior directors Yvonne Pangelinan, Ed.D, and Jackie Quitugua, Head Start/Early Head Start Program director Lathania Angui, Federal Programs officer Tim Thornburgh, Special Education Program director Donna Flores, and principal representatives Ignacia Demapan, Ed.D, (elementary), Martha Kintol (middle schools) and Jonathan Aguon (high school), State Technology director Jesse Tenorio, and Instructional Technology & Distance Education director Bobby Cruz, Ed.D, among others.

Peggy Feldmann of DBDriven, a Virginia-based next generation data and information warehouse, spoke before members of the Board of Education and Public School System leadership yesterday.

PHOTOS BY PSS

Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini, acting commissioner of education Eric Magofna and Tinian board member Antonio Borja listen to Peggy Feldmann.

Special Education Program's Lucille Deleon Guerrero and Nora Fujihira, and PSS-ARE's Shawna Indalecio.

Chacha Oceanview Middle School and middle school principal representative Martha Kintol, Special Education Program director Donna Flores, and Head Start/Early Head Start Program's Lanessa Lizama and Clarice Arriola.

SLDS director Annette Pladevega-Sablan, associate commissioner for Student Support Services Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, and Federal Program's Tim Thornburgh.

The professional development is geared toward meeting the school district's two-fold goals: 1) to establish a highly effective Statewide Longitudinal Data System infrastructure by linking Head Start/Early Head Start data to kindergarten through 12th grade, and 2) shifting the use of data from compliance to accountability and strategic instructional usage through an Early Warning System.

PSS' Educational Longitudinal Data System is "a data system that collects and maintains detailed, high quality, student-and staff-level data; links these data across entities, providing a complete academic and performance history for each student, and makes these data accessible through reporting and analysis tools.

Annette Plavedevega-Sablan is the PSS- SLDS director and lead for this project.

The PSS-SLDS is funded by the federal SLDS grant designed to help the CNMI improve the data longitudinal management system, which later can be expanded from primary level to 12th grade and beyond PSS. (***PSS***)

State Technology director Jesse Tenorio, Family and Community Engagement Program manager Leila Yumul, Ferdie Ngirnekur, and Albert Camacho.

Dencio V. Manglona, Randee-Jo Barcinas-Manglona, Marian Tudela, and Jacqueline Che.

Fasefulu Tigalau, Dr. Bobby Cruz, George Palican and Probio Cabrera.

From left to right, Marie Attao, Head Start/Early Head Start director Lathania Angui, human resource officer Lucretia Deleon Guerrero, and Finance and Budget director Arlene Lizama.

From left to right, senior director for Accountability, Research and Evaluation Dr. Rizalina Liwag, elementary school representative and Kagman Elementary School principal Dr. Ignacia Demapan, and senior director for Curriculum and Instruction Jackie Quitugua.

Food establishment pass sanitary inspections in August

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Environmental Health Disease Prevention did its monthly sanitary inspections on retail, eating, and drinking establishments in August and not one of the establishments inspected garnered a C score or was closed for violations of health and sanitation standards.

In a press statement last Sept. 17, EHDP provided the names of establishments by inspection grade:

- 90-100 Grade A
- 80-89 Grade B
- 70-79 Grade C
- > 69 Closure/Suspension

Grade A: 22 establishment(s)

1. Susupe Mobil Retail, Susupe
2. McDonald's Restaurant, Chalan Laulau
3. McDonald's Restaurant, Garapan
4. Korean Restaurant Jang Won, Garapan
5. Star Sands Wholesale, Chalan Laulau
6. Yong Hao Market, Koblerville
7. Cha Café & Bistro, Garapan
8. Abygnale's BBQ Stand, Koblerville
9. Green Leaves Store, San Antonio
10. Green Consume Market, As Lito
- Retail
- Butcher and packing facility

11. New Family Discount Market, Dandan
12. Coca Cola Beverage Company, Chalan Laulau
13. Philippine Goods Store, San Jose
14. Ace Hardware Retail, Susupe
15. Ete Café, Garapan
16. Ace Hardware, Gualo Rai
17. West Coast Restaurant, Susupe
18. Ace Hardware, San Vicente
19. Pugua Store, Gualo Rai
20. ABCD Market, Koblerville
21. D' Chef's, Chalan Kanoa
22. Susan's BBQ & Catering, Susupe

Grade B: 5 establishment(s)

1. Thai Mini Catering, Lower Navy Hill
2. Connie's BBQ & Catering, Susupe
3. Nam Dae Moon Restaurant, Garapan
4. Philippine Goods Retail & BBQ Stand, San Jose
5. Kiss KTV Karaoke Bar, Garapan

For more information, contact the EHDP office at (670) 664-4870/72/73, or email the director of EHDP, John Tagabuel, at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power service interruptions on Thursday

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021. The purpose of the interruptions is to perform systems maintenance by replacing three rotted wooden primary power poles to concrete poles along Isa Drive.

- Outage Time: 9am–9:30am and 2:30pm–3pm
- Areas Affected:

❑ San Vicente- (Kahida P1.. Laulau Bay Drive, Achon Ln.. Railroad Dr., Sinagu Ln., Tininu P1., Galak Dr.. & Makpong Pl.)

❑ Papago- (Pacific Heights Ln., Bova P1.. Galayan P1.. Mulberry Ln., Lantana P1.. Palai Way, Mapga Ln.. Langit Ln.. Berbena Dr., Pak ko Ln., Golondrina • Circuit:DIQA Nifen Ln.)

- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facility Affected: None

Thursday, September 30, 2021 '

- Outage Time: 9am–3pm
- Areas Affected: Papago (Mapga Ln., Langit Ln., Berbena Dr.. Pakko Ln., Golondrina Dr.. & Nifen Ln.)
- Circuit: Kiya 1
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facility Affected: None

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

MVA-RFP-21-2024

Marianas Visitors Authority Representation, Promotional and Public Relations Services for the TAIWAN MARKET

Submission /Closing Date: **October 25, 2021** Time: **3:00PM (ChST)**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after September 22, 2021 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM to 5:00PM ChST, Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **"MVA - RFP -21- 2024 - MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION, PROMOTIONAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES FOR THE TAIWAN MARKET".**

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before October 25, 2021 and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer Ms. Lenette F. Maratita in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to lmaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00PM, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) on October 15, 2021.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 • Email: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 21-0005
INSTALLATION & RETROFIT OF COURTYARD OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE BLDG O.

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the Installation and Retrofit of Courtyard outdoor learning space, Bldg. O, Saipan Campus.

The bid specifications and Scope of Work packet may be pick up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Friday, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Electronic packet, please send a request to Anita Camacho @ ppmo@marianas.edu.

A Pre-bid meeting and Site visit is scheduled for 09:00am October 01, 2021, NMC Conference Room, attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Hard copies Bid submission
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P,
As Terlaje Campus Saipan
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, October 08, 2021, ChST

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through US Department of Education, Emergency Assistance to Institution of Higher Education Grant, award no. P938T190005. In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

/s/Anita Camacho
Procurement Manager

A NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SOCIAL SERVICE
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

KARIDAT Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

(1) SHELTER WORKER - PART TIME
(1) SHELTER WORKER - FULL TIME

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat main office at Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021 AT 4:00PM

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

SU & US CORPORATION, a CNMI corporation was dissolved on September 20, 2021. Creditors and persons with an outstanding claim against the Company are requested to notify the corporate office as soon as possible.

SU & US CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 506247
SAIPAN MP 96950

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW21-RFP-032

SUBMISSION DATE: October 08, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Department of Public Works Planning Road Condition and Flood Hazard Mapping Project, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **September 08, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **September 24, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 30, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD21-ITB-037

SUBMISSION DATE: October 07, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply, and Delivery of Roll-Off Trash Bins for the Division of Solid Waste Management, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **September 08, 2021** at the Department of Public Works, 2nd floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 214 Saipan.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 24, 2021,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division, 2nd Floor, Transfer Station Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 30, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its special board meeting on **Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the CHCC Administrative Office, Conference Room 3. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   - A. Call to Order
   - B. Roll Call
   - C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
   - D. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments**

III. Discussion
   - A. CHCC Current Billing and Arrears
   - B. CHCC's Request for Six (6) Month Extension of Payment Agreement for CHCC's Utility Services (9/11/20) and CUC Response

IV. Executive Session ***

V. Announcements

VI. Adjournment

_____/s/_____
JOVITA SN. PAULINO
Acting Chairwoman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.

** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

CGC certifies 19 in mental health education program

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center certified last Aug. 25 seven additional individuals from the community in Adult Mental Health First Aid, plus 12 additional individuals from the CNMI Public School System and CHCC CGC on Sept. 16 in Youth MHFA.

So far this year, the CGC has completed 11 MHFA trainings, certifying a total of 115 individuals.

Since the training initiative began in 2015, CGC has already certified 1,122 individuals. Of these individuals, 1,103 were certified in the CNMI, 11 in Palau, and eight in Guam.

The certified individuals in the CNMI have served as a ready resource for the community to address behavioral health challenges in a timely manner, preventing serious harm to residents.

Since January 2021, the CGC System of Care and Healthy Transitions has acted on 137 service requests from partner agencies, stakeholder groups, and community members.

The MHFA is an evidence-based public education program that focuses on recognizing the patterns of thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and appearance that show there might be a mental health or substance abuse challenge. Individuals are taught to safely and responsibly identify and address warning signs and symptoms through the use of an action plan. Part of the training also includes topics on suicide, non-suicidal self-injury, and psychosis.

The next scheduled public training for Adult Mental Health First Aid is in October 2021, and for Youth Mental Health First Aid in November 2021 on Rota.

For more information on MHFA, visit https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org. For more information and to request for the CGC's MHFA training, visit https://chcc.gov.mp/communitysupporttraining.php or contact the CGC at (670) 323-6560. ***(PR)***

Twelve individuals from the CNMI Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center are certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid on Sept. 16. CHCC

Seven individuals from the community show off their certificates on Aug. 25 after undergoing certification in Adult Mental Health First Aid under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center. CHCC

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 069

Opening Date: September 10, 2021
Closing Date: September 23, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant: Mechanic**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Four (4)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. The Trades Assistant: Mechanic assists with the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, incinerators, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.

Duties:
- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities.
- Monitoring Plant systems as assigned;
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies and setting work safety barriers for protection.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment.
- Takes readings and collects data.
- Documents equipment readings.
- Prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily work activities.
- Assisting with equipment inspections, cleaning, corrosion control, and painting.
- Operating incinerators.
- Oil and water separator pump, servicing and preparing oil filters.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing debris and housekeeping.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Training and knowledge in operations repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities desired but not required.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work. Work in environments exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays, may be on call for emergency response.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am –4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: **employment.applications@cucgov.org**

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 071

Opening Date: September 15, 2021
Closing Date: September 28, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistants, Vegetation Line Clearing**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power T & D**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,000.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**2 year Contract**
POSITION(S):	**Eighteen (18)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power T & D Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Performs vegetation clearing activities
- Assess all aerial power lines and determine the need to clear any vegetation encroaching on the lines.
- Consult with CUC's designated project manager on need to de-energize utility lines prior to performing line clearing work.
- Prepare job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Clear all vegetation and/or obstacles within 15 feet from aerial power lines.
- Cut all grass, greenery and foliage surrounding the base of the power pole so that it is not longer than 6 inches in height and with a minimum circumference of 10 feet around the base of the power pole.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project is complete, dispose of all grass, greenery and foliage debris resulting from clearing.
- Gathers, cleans and maintain tools and equipment in proper working condition
- Provide weekly progress, project objectives and work scheduled updates.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma/GED or ABE Program AS.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory and supplies maintenance practices; Specialized equipment relevant to area of assignment; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Providing customer service; Preparing reports and documentation; Managing time and prioritizing requests; Providing attention to detail; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Good Housekeeping

How to get a lush, green lawn your neighbors will envy

By MIKE LAFOLLETTE
ANGIE'S LIST

Many homeowners strive for the perfect, emerald green lawn, but it takes more than regular mowing.

Lawn care requires a dedicated effort consisting of fertilization, regular maintenance and the ability to troubleshoot problems as they arise.

How low should you mow?

Often the first decision homeowners need to make is how short they should keep their grass so that it will look both manicured and lush.

Although it might seem natural to cut the lawn as short as possible, experts recommend letting it grow longer and mowing it more frequently.

Eileen Michaels, founder of A Yard and a Half Landscaping in Waltham, Mass., recommends setting the mower blades to at least 3 inches tall as "taller grass will shade out weed seeds."

Cutting a lawn short also puts stress on the grass and reduces its ability to resist weeds and pest infestation. Cutting a blade of grass too short reduces the amount of chlorophyll, which the grass can use for energy.

Short grass blades tend to put considerable strain on the roots, and that makes your lawn more susceptible to drying out and turning brown in warmer weather.

Once you've decided on lawn height, it's time to make the grass as green as possible without pesky weeds popping up.

Fertilizers promote healthy lawn

Organic and synthetic lawn fertilizers are good tools for maintaining a healthy lawn. Fertilizer promotes a lush growth, strengthens roots, and helps to prevent invasive weeds and pests.

There are many varieties of lawn fertilizer available, but most consist of three key nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Nitrogen is the most important for growth, but too much can lead to excessive growth, yard burn and discoloration.

The most popular types of lawn fertilizer are granule and liquid, which come in synthetic and organic forms. You can also choose between fast and slow-release fertilizer, or blends that contain pre-emergent controls for fighting crabgrass, weeds and other invasive plants.

Granule fertilizer should be applied with a broadcast spreader, a device that can be pushed or pulled around the yard to evenly distribute the fertilizer. A spreader is necessary because large concentrations of fertilizer in a small area can kill the grass.

"A balanced fertilization with a pre-emergent for control of annual grasses, (e.g. crabgrass), should be applied during the month of April, since crabgrass begins to emerge in May," says Michael Van de Bossche, owner of Earth-Wood Arts in Indianapolis. "Nitrogen should be a 50/50 split of fast and slow-release forms."

His advice applies to lawns in the Midwestern region of the United States. For additional fertilizer information, check your local university extension.

Van de Bossche says too much quick-release fertilizer combined with spring rains can create too lush of a growth, which increases turf and fungus problems.

Is there a green option for lawn care?

Organic lawn fertilizer is a popular option for homeowners with a green thumb. It's made up of living organisms, such as plant and animal matter. It releases nutrients at a slower pace and over a longer period of time than synthetic fertilizers.

Michaels says the organic approach doesn't provide immediate results like a synthetic fertilizer, but over time, it improves the overall quality of the lawn, reducing the amount of future applications.

"Synthetic fertilizers throw quick-release nutrients at the grass, but whatever they can't use up quickly runs off and can potentially pollute water sources," she says. "Slow-release nutrients found in organic sources like corn gluten, alfalfa meal, fish emulsion and compost become available gradually as the plants need them."

Lawn maintenance and repair

Some of the most common lawn problems include bare spots, dead patches and areas that have been infested by dandelions and weeds.

Bare spots are the most noticeable lawn problem, but they can be repaired with a little patience and persistence.

Michaels says sod is an option for large patches, but it can be hard to blend with the rest of the lawn.

"If you have full sun for six or more hours in the area, sod can be an instant-gratification fix," she says. "Depending on the overall quality of the lawn, however, it can give a patchwork appearance."

For smaller patches or areas that receive less sun, Michaels recommends grass seed.

"Rough up the soil, premix seed with a little compost, and throw down the mixture," she says. "Run the back of a rake over it to get seed in contact with the soil, and keep it evenly moist."

For bare spots around flower beds or in areas that receive little sun, she says one option is to expand an existing bed or create a new one altogether. It fixes the problem and adds new landscaping to the yard.

Dead spots form from too much sunlight, a lack of water, concentrations of pet urine or the overuse of fertilizer. To repair these unsightly brown spots, remove the dead grass down to the bare soil and apply grass seed.

If granule fertilizer was the culprit, you will be able to see collections of the small pellets and remove it.

How to battle stubborn weeds

Invasive weeds and dandelions are problems you may have to combat.

Dandelions are a perennial weed, which means they have deep roots that survive the winter and come back the following spring. The best way to keep them out of your yard is to attack them as soon as they appear.

"The most effective, though time-consuming, thing is to dig out the whole root," Michaels says.

You can also use a lawn and garden sprayer with an organic or synthetic herbicide to spray dandelions and weeds as they appear. It's important to limit the use of these products because they can cause harm to the body and runoff can enter waterways and streams.

Mike LaFollette is a reporter at Angie's List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

10 tips for stunning vignettes

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The successful decoration of a space often hinges on the proper selection of the appropriate accents and accessories. Often this is greatly influenced by not only what pieces are selected, but how various objects are placed or grouped together. Enter the vignette.

Vignettes are groupings of objects that look harmonious and appealing when placed together and help to enhance the overall look and feel of a space. When looking to create vignettes, there are some key tips to keep in mind.

1. Create a vignette upon entry. A foyer or entry vestibule is the perfect place to place an appealing and welcoming vignette that can also serve to introduce the overall style of a home.

2. Look for objects that are of varying heights. This will help add interest for the eye.

3. Consider using items that add a sense of contrast, such as placing black and white objects together.

4. Create sets of vignettes on longer surfaces.

5. Build a vignette around an inspirational or dynamic piece. In other words, select an object that may be a focal point and then choose other items that will be complementary.

6. Place vignettes on larger surfaces such as consoles, sideboards and coffee tables, as opposed to smaller surfaces such as side tables to avoid crowding a surface.

7. Incorporate greenery whenever possible. Add blooms for more color and texture.

8. Consider incorporating finishes into the colors of your vignettes such as brass or silver.

9. Pair objects of similar colors together, such as a vignette of mostly black objects.

10. Look for ways to create a wow factor with unique or unexpected pieces.

Life & Style

R Kelly prosecutors rest; defense calls on singer's allies

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS BEIJING AP

A family wearing raincoats and face masks to help protect themselves from the coronavirus pose for a selfie with an icon near the entrance to the Universal Studios Beijing in Beijing, Monday, Sept. 20, 2021. Thousands of people brave the rain visit to the newest location of the global brand of theme parks which officially opens on Monday.

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors at the R. Kelly sex trafficking trial ended their case Monday after calling dozens of witnesses over the past month who detailed the government's sweeping allegations against the singer in lurid detail.

The defense began its case later in the day by starting to call Kelly loyalists to the witness stand in an effort to cast doubt on some of the accusers' accounts.

A New York City jury has heard several women and two men who were in Kelly's celebrity orbit tell the panel that he groomed them for unwanted sex and psychologically tormented them—mostly when they were teenagers—in episodes dating to the 1990s. Their accounts were backed at least in part by former Kelly employees whose own testimony suggested they were essentially paid off to look the other way or actively enable the recording artist.

Kelly's lawyers must find ways to counter testimony from accusers alleging perverse misconduct spanning three decades. Among the troubling tableaus: his entourage locking a radio station intern in a room where he sexually assaulted her while she was passed out; witnesses claiming that he gave them herpes without disclosing he had an STD; and Kelly shooting a shaming video of one alleged victim showing her smearing feces on her face as punishment for breaking arbitrary rules meant to protect his fragile ego.

On Monday, Larry Hood, a childhood friend who worked security for Kelly as an off-duty Chicago police officer in the early 2000s, claimed he never witnessed Kelly misbehaving with underage girls.

Chris Rock says he has COVID-19, urges vaccination

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Rock on Sunday said he has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and sent a message to anyone still on the fence: "Get vaccinated."

The 56-year-old comedian wrote on Twitter: "Hey guys I just found out I have COVID, trust me you don't want this. Get vaccinated."

Rock

Rock has previously said he was vaccinated. Appearing on "The Tonight Show" in May, he called himself "Two-shots Rock" before clarifying that he received the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"You know, I skipped the line. I didn't care. I used my celebrity, Jimmy," he told host Jimmy Fallon. "I was like, 'Step aside, Betty White. Step aside, old people. ... I did 'Pootie Tang.' Let me on the front of the line.'"

'Shang-Chi' tops box office for 3rd straight weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—"Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" is the top film at the box office for the third straight weekend, but the muted reception for Clint Eastwood's "Cry Macho" suggests older moviegoers still aren't as eager to return to theaters.

Marvel's "Chang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, collected an estimated $21.7 million in ticket sales over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Walt Disney Co. release has held better in theaters than most films during the pandemic. Its 37% drop in the third weekend is the best third-week hold for any Marvel movie ever.

"Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," Marvel's first Asian superhero movie, has earned an estimated $320.6 million worldwide. The only trouble for "Shang-Chi" thus far is a lack of a release date in China, which hasn't cleared the film for release in the country, the world's largest but highly censored film market.

K-pop stars BTS dip into global diplomacy at UN gathering

It was a United Nations speech that got attention like few others—a plug for vaccines, young people and the earth's well being from superstar K-pop band BTS.

Addressing the stage for a sustainability event, the seven-member musical juggernaut appeared before the renowned green-marbled backdrop in the General Assembly hall on Monday to help promote U.N. goals for 2030 including ending extreme poverty, preserving the planet and achieving gender equality.

"Every choice we make is the beginning of change, not the end," said RM, the band's leader. South Korean President Moon Jae-in introduced the pop stars as special presidential envoys and an "exceptionally outstanding group of young men who are connecting with the youth across the world."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Emmy ratings up to 7.4 million viewers this year

NEW YORK (AP)—The Emmys accomplished what is becoming a rarity for awards shows these days, by actually increasing its viewership over the previous years. The Nielsen company estimated that 7.4 million people watched Sunday night's show, where the comedy "Ted Lasso" and streaming service Netflix were the big winners. That's up from the 6.1 million people who watched a ceremony sharply curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic last year. The previous year, 6.9 million people watched the show that celebrates television programming. CBS estimates the viewership number should increase slightly when Nielsen's count of people who watched outside of their homes is included. Those numbers weren't immediately available on Monday.

UK's Princess Beatrice gives birth to daughter

LONDON (AP)—Princess Beatrice and her husband Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi have had a baby daughter, Buckingham Palace said Monday. The baby, who was born on Saturday at London's Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, weighed 6 pounds and 2 ounces (2.78 kilos). Her name was not immediately revealed. The new baby's grandparents and great-grandparents have all been informed. She is Queen Elizabeth II's 12th great-grandchild. Beatrice, who is 10th in the line of succession to the British throne, is the eldest daughter of Prince Andrew and his ex-wife, Sarah, Duchess of York. Beatrice married millionaire property tycoon Mapelli Mozzi in July 2020 in a private wedding ceremony at the Royal Chapel of All Saints at Royal Lodge, Windsor. The ceremony strictly adhered to COVID-19 rules that limited gatherings and was attended by the Queen and the late Prince Philip.

Heartbroken wife ready to end long marriage

DEAR ABBY: When I found out a few months ago that my husband of 24 years had been having affairs with several men, it devastated me. I have gone to counseling to try to deal with the pain and depression I now suffer from. He's in counseling for himself as well, and we are also in couple's counseling to see if our marriage is salvageable. He tells me it has nothing to do with me but more about his need for attention, and that he didn't feel it was cheating because it wasn't with another woman. The problem is, he did this for SIX YEARS.

I'm no longer in love with him—and yes, I did love him more than life itself. I feel I need to end our marriage because I will never be able to trust him again, and I will never be enough for him. I'm struggling with guilt about it. He cries when I tell him I'm done, which makes me feel awful. How can I make it easier for both of us?

DEVASTATED BEYOND WORDS

DEAR DEVASTATED: That may not be possible, and YOU are not to blame for what happened. Once you accept that fact, you may begin to feel less guilty. Married men do not engage in affairs with other men because they aren't getting enough attention from their wives. Whether your husband is a deeply closeted gay man or bisexual is anyone's guess. But he chose to cheat on you. Bisexual people (of both sexes) in committed relationships remain faithful—which he wasn't for six years. Keep that in mind when you tell him (again) that you are done, then hand him some tissues and call your lawyer.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My oldest daughter, "Heather," has started her senior year of high school. She's often angry and confrontational with my husband and me. We've learned to remain neutral and not react to her attempts to pick fights. However, we have two younger daughters, 15 and 9. We found out that Heather often swears at them and calls them the B-word—and sometimes worse. Unfortunately, it's something I hear about long after it's happened. My younger girls have witnessed her swear at us, too. Heather will be 18 in a couple of weeks, and, frankly, we're ready for her to move out once she gets her diploma. Until then, how would you handle this situation?

TIRED OF THE LANGUAGE

DEAR TIRED: Talk to your daughter! WHY is she angry and disrespectful to you and your husband? Does Heather have emotional issues? If so, what has caused them? Once you have some answers, you and your husband can get your daughter professional help if she needs it. In the meantime, tell Heather you don't like the attitude she has been displaying and you want it stopped immediately. Make plain that if her bad behavior continues, there will be "consequences," and then, if it does, follow through.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

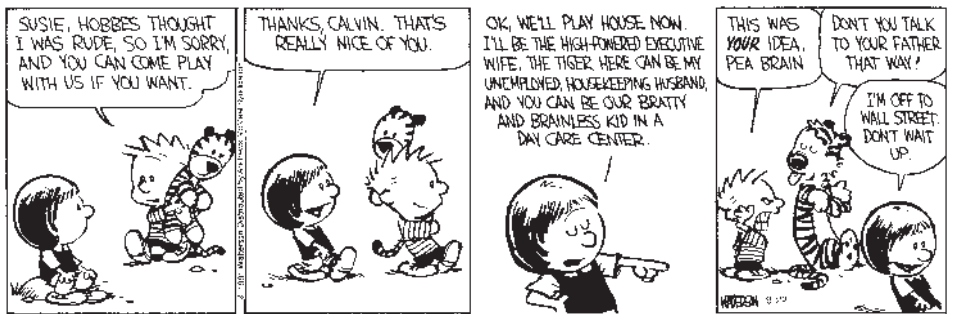
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SUSIE, HOBBES THOUGHT I WAS RUDE, SO I'M SORRY, AND YOU CAN COME PLAY WITH US IF YOU WANT.
THANKS, CALVIN. THAT'S REALLY NICE OF YOU.
OK, WE'LL PLAY HOUSE. NOW. I'LL BE THE HIGH-POWERED EXECUTIVE WIFE, THE TIGER HERE CAN BE MY UNEMPLOYED, HOUSEKEEPING HUSBAND, AND YOU CAN BE OUR BRATTY AND BRAINLESS KID IN A DAY CARE CENTER.
THIS WAS YOUR IDEA, PEA BRAIN
DON'T YOU TALK TO YOUR FATHER THAT WAY!
I'M OFF TO WALL STREET. DON'T WAIT UP.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

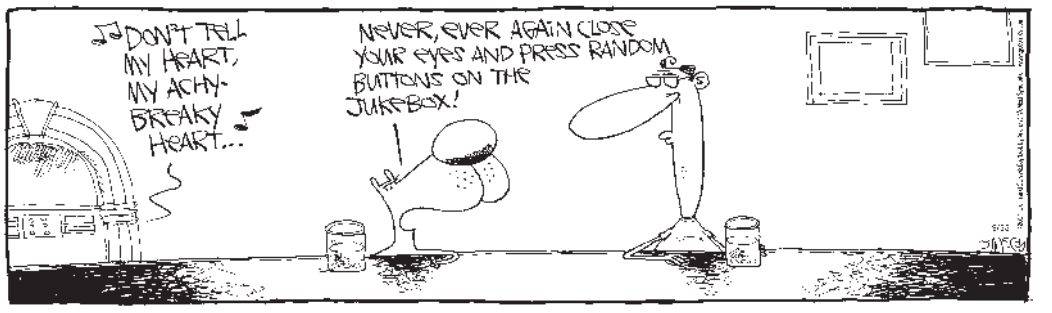
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WOW. MY OWN PUBLISHED NOVEL!
LET ME SEE!
WOW.
"THE WRETCHED TURNIP," HUH?
IT'S A DEEP, MEANINGFUL TITLE, DEAR.
IT'S GROSS, BUT WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT LITERATURE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

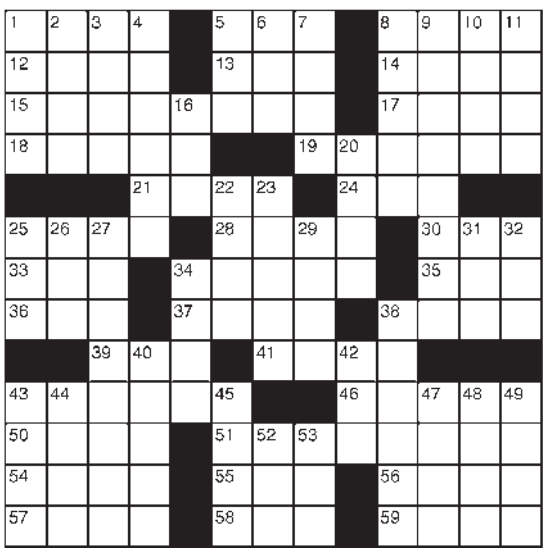
ACROSS
1 Long tale
5 Buddhist sect
8 Not many
12 Reed instrument
13 Out — limb
14 Nevada city
15 Luxury planes
17 Belafonte song
18 Nostalgic tune
19 Unprincipled
21 Author Ferber
24 The Magic, on scoreboards
25 Frees (of)
28 Thus
30 Oft-pierced body part
33 Employ
34 Fiend
35 Jamaican music
36 Fluffy scarf
37 Japanese noodle
38 Aspiring atty.'s exam
39 Train lines (Abbr.)
41 — Martin (cognac)
43 Customs
46 Poker payments
50 Apple product
51 Sign of sorrow
54 Rent
55 Juan Peron's wife
56 Wine (Pref.)
57 Taxpayer IDs
58 "Not impressed"
59 Hatchling's home

DOWN
1 Without help
2 Cain's brother
3 Incite
4 Eagles' homes
5 Orange Muppet
6 Tolkien creature
7 Houston acronym
8 Passion
9 Intrepid
10 "May It Be" singer
11 Sweater material
16 "West Wing" nickname
20 Earth circler
22 Must have
23 Knight wear
25 Barbecue seasoning
26 Equi-
27 Michigan city
29 Depleted
31 Rap sheet letters
32 Squealer
34 Attic buildup
38 The "L" of LBJ
40 Carnival attractions
42 Scratch
43 Chart toppers
44 Mil. addresses
45 Goblet feature
47 Fir or yew
48 Billions of years
49 Dalmatian feature
52 Night before
53 Contented sound

Solution time: 23 mins.

B	E	E	S		C	A	B		T	A	P	E
I	M	A	C		C	H	E		A	S	E	A
T	U	T	O	R	I	A			R	T	E	S
			R	E	X			E	M	O	N	Y
D	R	A	C	O		A	Y	L	A			
R	O	T	H		C	F	F	I	C	I	A	L
U	N	I		A	B	L	U	E		R	B	
M	A	T	E	R	I	A		B	O	L	D	
			R	O	T	C		C	A	N	E	S
D	R	Y	M	O	P		S	U	R			
A	C	A	I			A	R	T	E	R	I	A	L
L	A	W	N		G	U	Y		E	K	G	S
I	S	L	E		E	N	E		D	E	E	D

Yesterday's answer 9-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Felton, 34; Bonnie Hunt, 60; Andrea Bocelli, 63; Joan Jett, 63.

Happy Birthday: Explore your options regarding work and what you want to do with the rest of your life. Revamp the way you use your skills to help fulfill your aspirations. Rethink your priorities and the way you use your time before making adjustments that work for you. Take responsibility for your happiness, and everything else will fall into place. Your numbers are 4, 10, 17, 23, 29, 31, 35, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Set your goal, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results you get. A partnership has the potential to grow into something that will add to your stability. Talks will lead to solutions that offer a better lifestyle. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You may desire personal change, but first make sure you will not disappoint someone close to you. Run your plans by people who matter, and someone will offer alternatives that can work well for everyone. Compromise is favored. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Test your skills and make improvements that encourage you to boost your skills, knowledge and profile. Pay attention to the way you present what you have to offer. Update your resume, and focus on a long-term goal. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You move one step forward and three steps back if you let your emotions come between you and what you are trying to accomplish. Put everything you've got into whatever makes you feel better about your appearance and your surroundings. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take it easy. Use your intelligence to direct others to do the work for you. Don't take a risk that can potentially lead to injury or illness. Protect your position and your reputation. Channel your energy into what you want to achieve. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take charge. Focus on what you can do to make your life better. Don't wait for someone to make the first move. Choose to follow the path that suits your needs, and let others do the same. Get your priorities straight. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Play to win. Leave nothing to chance. Take the initiative to handle every detail, and offer an in-depth assessment of what you are doing to ensure that no one gets in your way. Integrity and determination will lead to rewards. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Refuse to get pulled into a situation that results in an emotional conundrum. Take hold of any problem that arises, and make your position clear. A change of heart will leave you no choice but to look out for your best interests. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Speak up, share your ideas and plans, and proceed. Taking the initiative to fulfill your dreams will encourage others to take note and support your efforts. Think big, but live within your means. You'll gain respect and rewards. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a moment to rethink your plan before you move forward. Walk through the process, and consider the variables that can transpire given the people involved and the hoops you must jump through to get what you want. Proceed with caution. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A challenge is needed to restart your mindset and encourage you to make the most of each day. Gather information, and pursue knowledge and skills that will help you reframe your goals and bring you closer to what brings you joy. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll desire change. Sticking to a budget will help eliminate undue stress and hurdles that will weigh you down and tire you out. Be smart, and you'll find a way to get what you want at a price you can afford. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persevering, broad-minded and original. You are changeable and entertaining.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	5	1	9	3	2
			6					1
			3					5
			7					6
			2					8
	9	6	5			7	2	4
2			8		3			9
9			1		6			7
	7	4				8	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	3	2	4	6	9	8	1	5
6	5	9	1	2	8	4	3	7
4	1	8	3	7	5	6	2	9
5	7	6	2	8	1	9	4	3
8	2	3	6	9	4	5	7	1
9	4	1	7	5	3	2	6	8
1	9	7	8	4	2	3	5	6
3	8	4	5	1	6	7	9	2
2	6	5	9	3	7	1	8	4

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DECANTERS **Solution: 8 letters**

L	E	B	O	L	G	E	G	A	R	E	V	E	B	K
A	B	A	R	S	E	S	G	T	S	S	E	S	R	N
T	O	S	L	L	I	F	H	N	D	D	P	O	E	K
S	T	E	R	I	A	E	A	A	O	I	C	C	A	C
Y	T	L	I	O	R	R	W	R	R	L	K	B	T	U
R	L	M	E	M	T	S	G	I	A	E	T	R	H	D
C	E	N	A	E	M	A	T	E	N	C	W	E	E	L
S	O	L	R	A	T	S	R	T	E	E	I	W	N	O
S	I	F	L	E	D	S	R	E	R	S	S	A	L	G
E	S	L	F	A	D	N	Q	E	G	O	T	L	D	N
L	E	E	V	E	T	O	U	U	P	I	H	L	E	I
D	C	V	B	E	E	G	M	O	A	P	R	S	L	K
A	I	R	A	E	R	A	T	E	R	R	O	F	A	C
R	U	E	T	P	E	R	F	U	M	E	E	T	E	A
C	J	S	W	A	N	D	R	A	D	N	A	T	S	R

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 9/22

Aerate, Bars, Base, Beverage, Bottle, Breathe, Brew, Carafe, Coffee, Cork, Cradles, Crystal, Curbed, Dragons, Duck, Fill, Glass, Globe, Gold, Juices, Large, Lids, Long, Modern, Neck, Oils, Perfume, Racking, Refrigerator, Round, Sealed, Serve, Share, Short, Silver, Small, Spirits, Square, Standard, Steel, Stoppers, Swan, Tall, Thermal, Twist, Walls, Wine

Yesterday's Answer: Bulbous

Treasuries 23 through 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Baz wins debut, AL East-leading Rays beat Blue Jays 6-4

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Shane Baz pitched two-hit ball for five innings to win his major league debut and the AL East-leading Tampa Bay Rays cut Toronto's lead in the wild-card chase, holding off the Blue Jays 6-4 on Monday night.

Tampa Bay has a seven-game advantage over second-place Boston with 11 games remaining.

The Blue Jays, who scored twice in the ninth inning and left the bases loaded, had their edge over the New York Yankees for the second AL wild card drop to a half-game.

Baz (1-0) gave up a pair of home runs and little else, striking out five and walking none. The 22-year-old righty, promoted from Triple-A Durham, was on this year's silver medal-winning U.S. Olympic baseball team.

"It was like a dream come true-type thing," Baz said.

Baz threw 51 of 65 pitches (78.5%) for strikes, the highest percentage by a starting pitcher in his MLB debut since pitches were first tracked beginning in 1988, according to STATS.

The outing put Baz on the radar for a potential postseason roster spot.

"He's done that, and we'll see how it shakes out," Rays manager Kevin Cash said.

Baz, along with family and friends, was on the field around the pitcher's mound for an extended period after the game. The group included his mother, father and sister.

"It just means everything to have them here," Baz said. "It made me so comfortable just getting to see them this morning. It was really special."

Toronto, which is 15-4 in September, got homers from Teoscar Hernández, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Marcus Semien.

The Blue Jays were limited to two hits and were down 6-2 entering the ninth before George Springer had a leadoff double and scored on Semien's 41st homer off David Robertson.

JT Chargois replaced Robertson after Vladimir Guerrero Jr. walked and got two outs before Toronto loaded the bases on Danny Jansen's single and a walk to Gurriel.

Breyvic Valera got ahead 3-0 before taking a called third strike on a full-count pitch from Dietrich Enns, who picked up his second save.

"That's just what we do; we're not going to quit," Toronto manager Charlie Montoyo said. "The guys are not going to give up."

The Rays were without key late-inning reliever Andrew Kittredge, who was placed on the 10-day injured list before the game.

Toronto Blue Jays catcher Alejandro Kirk (30) tags out Tampa Bay Rays' Kevin Kiermaier trying to score during the sixth inning of a baseball game Monday, Sept. 20, 2021, in St. Petersburg, Fla.
AP

Tampa Bay had a runner reach second against Robbie Ray (12-6) in the first, second and fourth but failed to score. The Rays finally got a key hit when Yandy Díaz connected for a three-run homer in the fifth.

Taylor Walls had a potential one-out double in the Rays fifth turn into a single after his grounder down the left-field line struck umpire Nic Lentz. After Kevin Kiermaier had an infield single, Díaz hit his 12th homer.

Yankees 4, Rangers 3

In New York, Gary Sánchez hit a go-ahead home run, four pitchers combined for scoreless relief and New gained in the AL wild-card race with a win over Texas.

Sánchez put the Yankees ahead in the second inning against rookie A.J. Alexy (2-1) with his 22nd home run.

New York built a 4-0 lead before the Rangers closed the gap in a three-run fifth against Nestor Cortes.

Chad Green (8-7) retired five straight batters, Clay Holmes and Joely Rodríguez combined for the seventh and eighth, and Aroldis Chapman got three straight outs for his 28th save in 32 chances.

New York moved within a half-game of Toronto for the second AL wild card and with 11 games left is two back of Boston, the league's wild-card leader.

Braves 11, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Austin Riley had three doubles and three RBIs, Adam Duvall added a two-run homer and Atlanta extended its lead in the NL East by beating Arizona.

The Braves pushed their advantage to three games over the Philadelphia Phillies, who lost 2-0 to Baltimore.

The Diamondbacks led 3-2 heading to the fifth but the Braves responded with a huge inning, scoring seven runs while sending 12 batters to the plate. Atlanta finished with seven doubles.

Jacob Webb (5-3) pitched a scoreless inning of relief for the win. Eddie Rosario added a solo homer.

Humberto Mejia (0-2) took the loss, giving up six runs over four innings. Jake McCarthy hit his first big league homer in the seventh.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Jon Lester notched his 200th career win, Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer and St. Louis beat NL Central-leading Milwaukee for its ninth straight win.

The Cardinals have won nine straight for the first time since 2004 to solidify their grip on the second NL wild card. St. Louis is three games ahead of Cincinnati, four games in front of San Diego and 4 1/2 games ahead of Philadelphia for the final postseason spot.

Milwaukee's magic number over the Cardinals to clinch the division title remained at three.

Lester (7-6) is the third active pitcher with 200 wins, joining Houston teammates Justin Verlander (226) and Zack Greinke (219). He surrendered three runs and seven hits in six innings. He struck out two and didn't walk a batter.

Freddy Peralta (9-5) took the loss. He gave up seven hits and three runs in six innings, striking out nine and walking one. Milwaukee got home runs from Avisail Garcia and Luis Urias.

Orioles 2, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, John Means struck out six and stymied Philadelphia as Baltimore slowed the Phillies' playoff push.

Losers of two straight, the Phillies fell three games behind Atlanta in the NL East. The Phillies are 4½ games behind St. Louis for the second wild card.

Means (6-7) tossed four-hit ball into the seventh inning and helped himself with a double in the seventh for his first career extra-base hit.

Ranger Suarez (6-5) gave up consecutive RBI singles to Pedro Severino and Ryan McKenna in the first inning. He struck out five and his ERA bumped to 1.60.

Tigers 4, White Sox 3

In Detroit, Carlos Rodón was pulled after three rocky innings and Chicago squandered a three-run lead in a loss to Detroit.

Despite the defeat, Chicago's magic number to clinch the AL Central dropped to two when second-place Cleveland was swept by Kansas City in a doubleheader.

Harold Castro's eighth-inning single broke a 3-all tie for Detroit.

Drew Hutchison (2-1) picked up the win with two scoreless innings of relief. Tigers rookie Alex Lange pitched the ninth for his first career save, becoming the eighth Detroit reliever to earn a save this season.

Craig Kimbrel (2-2) took the loss.

Reds 9, Pirates 5

In Cincinnati, Joey Votto tied the game with his second homer of the game, Eugenio Suarez followed with a go-ahead shot and Cincinnati rallied from a five-run deficit in a win over Pittsburgh.

Votto tied the game 5-5 against Cody Ponce (0-5) in the fifth with his third homer in his last three at-bats spanning two games before Suarez homered off the top of the left-center field wall.

Nick Castellanos drove in three runs with three hits and Kyle Farmer also went deep as the Reds overcame back-to-back homers by Yoshi Tsutsogo and Bryan Reynolds.

The Reds couldn't gain on St. Louis in the NL wild card race. The second-place Cardinals beat Milwaukee 5-2 to maintain a three-game lead over third-place Cincinnati.

Luis Cessa (5-2) had three strikeouts in 1 2/3 innings to get the win. Lucas Sims, Michael Lorenzen and Mychal Givens combined for four more shutout innings.

Astros 10, Angels 0

In Anaheim, Calif., Framber Valdez pitched seven innings of six-hit ball, Marwin González hit a grand slam and drove in five runs as Houston moved closer to the AL West title with a victory over Los Angeles.

Martin Maldonado launched a three-run homer in the eighth, José Siri hit a leadoff homer and Carlos Correa had an early RBI single among his four hits as the Astros (89-61) won for the fifth time in six games.

Houston continued to close in on its fourth division title in five seasons by moving seven games ahead of second-place Oakland, which lost at Seattle. The Astros' magic number dropped to six.

Valdez (11-5) struck out six and pitched around three walks. Jaime Barría (2-4) gave up 10 hits while pitching into the sixth inning for the Angels, who lost their fourth straight.

Mariners 4, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Calif., Kyle Seager had a two-run single in the decisive third inning among his three hits and three RBIs, Mitch Haniger added two doubles as Seattle beat Oakland.

Tyler Anderson (2-1) struck out seven and walked one over seven innings, allowing one run on four hits to win for the first time in six starts since Aug. 17 at Texas. Sean Manaea (10-10) matched his career high in losses.

Oakland trails Toronto by two games for the second AL wild card, while Seattle decreased its deficit to three games behind the Blue Jays.

Paul Sewald earned his ninth save as the A's had their five-game winning streak snapped.

Marlins 8, Nationals 7, 10 innings

In Miami, Jazz Chisholm Jr. homered twice before scoring from third on a wild pitch in the 10th inning and Miami edged Washington.

After Dylan Floro (6-6) pitched a scoreless top of the 10th, Chisholm took his place at second to start the bottom of the inning as Miami's automatic runner.

Washington reliever Sam Clay (0-5) intentionally walked Jesús Sánchez to face Lewis Brinson. Chisholm stole third during the at-bat and raced home after Clay's breaking pitch bounced away from catcher Keibert Ruiz.

Sánchez hit a two-run homer in the third for Miami. Lane Thomas homered for Washington.

Royals 7, Indians 2, 1st game
Royals 4, Indians 2, 2nd game

In Cleveland, Salvador Perez hit his 46th home run, breaking Johnny Bench's record for most by a catcher in a season to highlight the opener, then the Kansas City Royals completed a doubleheader sweep of Cleveland.

Perez hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning of the opener, topping Bench's total from 1970 for the highest total by a player who spent at least 75% of his team's games at catcher. Perez also moved into a tie for the major league lead in homers with Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr. Perez leads the majors with 115 RBIs.

Joel Payamps, Domingo Tapia, Jake Brentz. Josh Statamount and Scott Barlow combined on a four-hitter in the second game. Tapia (3-0) struck out four in 1 2/3 innings and Barlow pitched the ninth for his 14th save.

The Royals scored twice off Nick Wittgren (2-8) in the first when Carlos Santana drew a bases-loaded walk and Hunter Dozier added a sacrifice fly.

Dozier and Andrew Benintendi also hit two-run homers for the Royals in the opener.

Brady Singer (5-10), activated from the COVID-19-related injured list before the game, allowed two runs in seven innings.

Triston McKenzie (5-7) gave up all three home runs and allowed seven runs in 4 1/3 innings.

Packers dominate 2nd half, bounce back to beat Lions, 35-17

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—While celebrating one of his four touchdowns, Aaron Jones lost a necklace he wears with a little black football containing some of the ashes of his late father.

That was just about the only thing that went wrong for Jones and the Green Bay Packers against the Detroit Lions.

Jones caught three of Aaron Rodgers' four TD passes and rushed for a fourth score, and the Packers had a welcome return to normal, dominating the second half in a 35-17 win over the division rival Lions on Monday night.

The Packers, who got thumped 38-3 by the New Orleans Saints in Week 1, looked more like the team that went 13-3 in each of coach Matt LaFleur's first two seasons. Green Bay (1-1) won its ninth straight home opener.

"I think that there's, even more now than when I started playing, there's so many overreactions that happen on a week-to-week basis," Rodgers said. "So it's nice to come out and have a good performance and get the trolls off our back for at least a week."

Jones became the first Packers running back to catch three touchdown passes in a game since Andy Uram against the Chicago Cardinals in 1942. He had 17 carries for 67 yards and six catches for 48 yards.

As for the missing necklace, he was hopeful he'd see it again.

"I think the grounds crew is about to go out there and look right now," Jones said. "But if there was any place to lose it, that's where my dad would've wanted me to lose it, so I know he's smiling."

Jones' father, Alvin Jones Sr., died on April 8.

"My dad's always taught me as a man, it's how you respond to adversity, how you respond is what makes a man really," Jones said. "I think we came out and did a great job of responding. We played well. We played at a high level."

Rodgers went 22 of 27 for 255 yards and surpassed John Elway for 10th all-time in passing yards with 51,633. Rodgers has followed up each of the Packers' last five regular-season losses by throwing four touchdown passes and no interceptions in his next game.

Detroit's Jared Goff completed 13 of his first 14 passes but struggled the rest of the way as the Lions (0-2) blew a 17-14 halftime lead. Goff finished 26 of 36 for 246 yards. He connected on touchdown passes to Quintez Cephus and T.J. Hockenson but also threw an interception and lost a fumble.

Green Bay scored touchdowns on its first three second-half possessions to seize control.

"We just kind of kept shooting ourselves in the foot there," Goff said.

Green Bay Packers' Aaron Jones celebrates his touchdown run during the second half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions Monday, Sept. 20, 2021, in Green Bay, Wis. AP

The Packers faced third-and-12 on their opening series of the second half when Rodgers threw a 50-yard completion to Davante Adams, who ended the night with eight catches for 121 yards.

Lions rookie cornerback Ifeatu Melifonwu injured his thigh on the play, weakening a secondary that already lost cornerback Jeff Okudah to a ruptured Achilles tendon in Detroit's season-opening loss to the San Francisco 49ers.

Green Bay dominated the rest of the way.

"Sometimes, it just takes one play," Rodgers said. "I think the throw over the top to Davante kind of got us going."

Rodgers capped that drive with a 22-yard touchdown pass to Robert Tonyan. Detroit's next series ended when Goff threw an incompletion on fourth-and-1 from the Green Bay 25.

Rodgers threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Jones to extend the Packers' lead to 28-17.

Green Bay's Krys Barnes recovered Goff's fumble at the Detroit 23 on the Lions' next snap. Jones scored on a 1-yard run and that was that.

QBs Tagovailoa, Wentz, Dalton, Taylor leave with injuries

Tua Tagovailoa was forced out by a rib injury. Carson Wentz hurt his right ankle. Andy Dalton had a knee issue, and Tyrod Taylor exited with a hamstring injury.

It was a rough Sunday for quarterbacks.

Tagovailoa was knocked out of Miami's 35-0 loss to Buffalo when he was hit by A.J. Epenesa on a failed fourth-down play near midfield in the first quarter. Tagovailoa struggled just to get to the sideline and was carted to the locker room not long afterward.

Tagovailoa was having tests performed, a process that will continue into Monday, Dolphins coach Brian Flores said.

Pittsburgh outside linebacker T.J. Watt, Denver linebacker Bradley Chubb and Philadelphia defensive end Brandon Graham also were among the NFL's most notable injuries in Week 2.

Watt left the Steelers' 26-17 loss to Las Vegas with a groin injury. Chubb aggravated an ankle injury during the Broncos' 23-13 win at Jacksonville. Graham suffered a left Achilles tendon injury in the Eagles' 17-11 loss to San Francisco, and he wrote on social media he would miss the rest of the season.

"He's really the heartbeat of this team," Eagles offensive tackle Lane Johnson said.

Philadelphia also lost offensive lineman Brandon Brooks, who hurt his chest at the end of the first quarter.

Tennessee's offensive line took a hit when left tackle Taylor Lewan limped off the field with a knee injury suffered in pregame warmups before the Titans' 33-30 overtime win at Seattle.

Titans left guard Rodger Saffold III went down with a shoulder injury briefly in the first half, returned, and then left for good in the third quarter.

Cleveland quarterback Baker Mayfield hurt his left shoulder during the Browns' 31-21 win over Houston, but he came back to throw a touchdown pass and run for a TD.

Mayfield lost one of his top targets when wide receiver Jarvis Landry injured a knee on the second offensive play. Coach Kevin Stefanski said Landry will undergo an MRI on the injured knee on Monday.

Wentz injured his ankle in the fourth quarter of the Colts' 27-24 loss to the Rams. He had to watch his team's final two possessions from the bench.

"It's sore, it definitely feels sore. We'll see how it reacts this week," Wentz said. "It's a bad situation when you can't finish, you kind of feel like you let your team down."

Dalton got hurt on a 14-yard run early in the second quarter of Chicago's 20-17 win against Cincinnati. Rookie Justin Fields took over and helped the Bears close out their first victory of the season.

Coach Matt Nagy said Dalton was available in an emergency. He also said he was "pretty sure" Dalton did not have a serious ACL injury, though the quarterback was to be examined more in the next few days.

Texans coach David Culley said Taylor got hurt just before halftime in Cleveland.

"He came off to the sideline and was running to the left, and he kind of pulled up and knew something was wrong," Culley said. "He thought he was OK, but once we got him in, we realized it was something."

Taylor's injury forced rookie Davis Mills into his first NFL action, and he threw an interception on his second series.

Stafford already boosting Rams over adversity, late deficits

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two games into his new career with the Los Angeles Rams, Matthew Stafford has added another fourth-quarter comeback to his impressive list.

And the Rams are already showing a knack for overcoming adversity with Stafford leading the way.

Stafford rallied the Rams from a momentary deficit early in the fourth and eventually led Los Angeles to a 27-24 victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

The veteran quarterback didn't do it alone, of course. His offensive line and receivers all came through, and the defense held Indy to 83 yards on 14 snaps in the fourth quarter, highlighted by Jalen Ramsey's all-but-clinching interception with 2:13 to play.

After a messy, choppy and ultimately satisfying win in their road opener, the Rams are off to a 2-0 start for the fourth consecutive season. The drama in Indy aside, they appear to have a much-improved offense and another solid version of the defense that topped the NFL last year.

"We were on the road, in a hostile environment, and we found ways to win," said receiver Robert Woods, who had five catches for 64 yards on Sunday.

Stafford and his offense needed only four plays to reverse the Rams' first deficit of the season in that fourth quarter, going 70 yards for a TD with impressive precision. Los Angeles then drove for the winning field goal after Indianapolis tied the game.

Tom Brady and defending champion Tampa Bay are visiting SoFi Stadium this weekend, but the Rams seem confident they've installed a foundation that will hold up throughout the final 15 games of the regular season.

"Obviously, they've been playing incredible football for their first two games this year," Rams coach Sean McVay said Monday about the Bucs. "They finished on an amazing streak. But really, we're going to be worried about doing a great job with our process."

WHAT'S WORKING

A long season looms ahead, but it's undeniable that McVay's move for Stafford has revitalized his offense so far. The Rams are gaining 6.88 yards per play after managing just 5.5 and 5.7 in the past two seasons. A team that didn't crack the NFL's top 10 in scoring in 2019 or 2020 has 61 points in two games, and Stafford is third in the NFL with 10.7 yards per passing attempt.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Special teams are on the verge of being a problem. Los Angeles gave up a big kickoff return in each of its first two games, and a miscommunication between punt protector Nick Scott and new long snapper Matt Orzech resulted in a touchdown for the Colts when Orzech's snap hit Scott and was recovered by Indianapolis in the end zone.

STOCK UP

Cooper Kupp is off to a monster start after he had nine catches for 163 yards and two touchdowns against the Colts. The fifth-year pro has been a staple of McVay's offense whenever he's healthy, and Stafford clearly has a connection with Kupp, who entered Monday night tied for the NFL lead with 16 catches, tied for second with three TDs and ranked third with 271 yards.

STOCK DOWN

Starting linebacker Kenny Young lost his cool and got ejected for making contact with an official in Indy. No matter the provocation for his behavior, Young hurt the Rams' rhythm and forced them to play rookie Ernest Jones more than McVay likely wanted. Young has a starting job in the fourth season of his stop-and-start NFL career, and he needs a big year as he heads toward free agency.

INJURIES

Running back Darrell Henderson made it to the second half of Week 2 before he was sidelined with a rib injury, the latest in the series of setbacks that have dogged his career. McVay hopes Henderson will be able to play this weekend, but the coach said Sony Michel and rookie Jake Funk likely will play more for the Rams regardless: "We've got to take the approach that those guys have to get ready to carry the load. And if Darrell can go, then that's a positive for us."

KEY NUMBER

3—The number of snaps for veteran receiver DeSean Jackson in Indy. Kupp and Woods were targeted on 20 of Stafford's 23 throws to wideouts. McVay said Jackson isn't injured and did nothing wrong: "I've got to figure out a better way of getting him involved in the rotation."

NEXT STEPS

A visit from the defending Super Bowl champs will make for the first truly huge Sunday afternoon with fans at SoFi. It's also an excellent measuring stick and an instructive dose of big-game pressure for the Rams' new core.

Triton Esports announces team roster and new Valorant team

Triton Esports, the first-ever collegiate esports program for the University of Guam as well as the first in the Marianas, has established its roster of student-athletes for Fanuchånan 2021. The program will compete this season in three esports: League of Legends, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, and for the first time, Valorant.

Following tryouts held in August, 18 student-athletes were selected based on their flexibility and skills. The athletes competed in a two-day tournament against each other, the Triton Esports coaches, and established local teams to prove their skills and earn a spot on the team.

"The Triton Esports program is not just a way for students to have fun and improve their gaming knowledge and skills – it's a program that rigorously teaches teamwork, leadership skills, and the importance of physical fitness and mental health," said Ken San Nicolas, Triton Esports co-coordinator. "We're excited to have our new athletes grow in all of these areas this semester while proudly representing UOG."

Representing Triton Esports on League of Legends are:
- Maoie "MaoieXVI" Jerao
- Anthony "Vnthony" Orallo
- Vincent "Shisui" Pajela
- Tristan "CrimsonComet" Romero
- Ivan "Nawvii" Rosell
- Ryoh "Yors" Sato
- John "1ssok" Taman Jr.

Representing Triton Esports on Super Smash Bros. Ultimate are:
- Daryl "Technition" Dianzon
- Maven "Stratagem" Dulana
- Ronee "Capstwo" Pangilinan
- Bill "Pokedranzer" Lactaoen
- Adrian "Aszy" Tambora
- Barron Josh "Trix" Tranate

Representing Triton Esports on Valorant are:
- Phillip "Que" Quenga
- Gavin "Mango" Mangosong
- Daniel "Chobo" Lee
- John Paul "Jrizzy" Tamayo
- An "Akursa" Truong

The selected team members will each receive a $500 grant-in-aid award for their time and commitment. The athletes started practices last month and will work with Physical Fitness Coach Jolybii Song on their personal fitness goals. Additionally, they will meet with Mental Health Coach Paul Lazarra for personal check-ins and educational sessions on relevant mental health topics.

Events and tournaments will be announced in the near future.

Members of the 2020–2021 League of Legends team pose with their new Triton Esports jerseys at the Triton Esports Appreciation Banquet on Aug. 13 at The Cove Guam. (Back row, from left) Ryoh Sato, Daniel Lee, Damen Borja, Anthony Orallo, (front row, from left) John Taman Jr., Peter Kwon, Jonathan Dunna, and Andrea Quitoriano. UOG

Valorant: A new addition under Triton Esports

The character-based tactical shooter game, Valorant, is the newest addition to the Triton Esports program. Since its release in 2020, the game has grown an extensive fan base with a community of more than 14 million monthly players.

Competing in Valorant will allow the team, for the first time since Triton Esports launched in 2020, to showcase their skills in the first-person shooter gaming format. Coaching the Valorant athletes is Will "Leverage" Hong, whose success in the game earned him Immortal rank and placed him in the top 1% of players in North America.

"Tryouts definitely were a success," Hong said. "Our new team may not have the highest ranks, but we are eager to grow. We're looking forward to more executions now as a team rather than solo performances. This team will do great things—keep your eye out for them."

Next round of tryouts

Triton Esports will hold tryouts again during the Fañomnåkan 2022 semester, where prospective athletes can test their skills against the standing roster to secure a spot on the team.

Those interested in following and supporting the Triton Esports team can do so at https://esports.uog.edu or by following Triton Esports on Instagram, Twitch, and Discord. ***(PR)***

SIS

From Page 20

victory over SCS. Angel Calyag recorded the other goal in the Mallards' win against SCS last Wednesday.

Koblerville-1 4, SCS 2
Koblerville-1 4, GTC 0

Joining Garapan on top of the team standings in Group B is Koblerville-1.

The Umangs notched their first win last Wednesday against GTC, behind the four goals of Napu Pangelinan. For its second victory, Koblerville-1 edged SCS last Friday. Pangelinan nailed twin goals in the win, while Bryan Salamat and Morris Atalig chipped in one each. Maria Kai Haberman-Smith logged the pair of goals for SCS.

Koblerville-1 and Garapan-2 will dispute the top spot in the team standings in Group B tomorrow, Thursday. Regardless of the results, both teams are already assured of slots to the eight-team playoff round. The Top 2 teams after the round-robin play (in four groups) advance to the playoffs, which will start on Sept. 29. The pairings in the first round are as follows: A1 vs C2; C1 vs A2; B1 vs D2; D1 vs B2.

WSR-2 2, SDA 1

In other results last Friday, William S. Reyes Elementary School-2 won its first match of the season after nosing out Seventh Day Adventist.

Herman Villagomez saved the day for WSR, as he scored the go-ahead in the 27th minute. He also recorded the other goal for the Kingfishers, while Jebro Leon posted the lone goal for SDA.

WSR-2 and SDA are in Group D along with Grace Christian Academy and Kagman Elementary School.

GCA 8, Kagman 1

The GCA Eagles had a rousing start after dominating Kagman.

Mateo Angeles, Aaleyah Fatialofa, and Juan Alfonso Magboo scored two goals apiece to hand GCA an easy victory over Kagman,which got its only goal from Trey Manglona.

WSR-1 11, MCS 0

In the Group C match last Wednesday, WSR-1 coasted past Mt. Carmel School.

Izaiah Tenorio and Jon Aldric Antonio teamed up in powering WSR-1 to its debut win with the former firing four goals and the latter adding three.

ONOC

From Page 20

seems to be a lot of enthusiasm coming through especially from the newly elected officers who were more than willing to learn the processes in developing their organizations. So it's a very good step towards the future."

He added that the workshop gives sports federations a jumping point to start and continue their programs the right way.

"The short-term and long-term benefits include putting the structure in place for the future development of NMSA and other sports federations as well as feeding into the school system. So you start young and put the structure into place and that will help not just the kids but the parents of these kids see that there is a very good structure in every organization. Then they'll want to put their kids in these sports organizations to help them develop in the future."

For Cavu, just seeing the participation of a lion's share of the sports federations in the workshop means that everyone is serious in moving sports in the CNMI toward the right direction.

"[It shows] they're really committed to want to see change or basically doing the course that equips them with the competencies on how to manage a federation or a club. That to me is the biggest trend and if we can continue to progress on that direction we shall be able to make that change."

When asked about his impression of NMSA, Bainimarama said it was quite obvious from the get-go that the leadership has the drive and commitment not only to pull off a successful hosting of the Mini Games but also to help improve sports federations under its umbrella.

"The fact that we're here demonstrates the commitment of the leadership from the association, the board, Mr. Tan and his team, and obviously Carline. The enthusiasm around the preparations [for the Mini Games is evident]. One of things we're doing with the national federations is getting them to see the benefits that hosting the Mini Games will bring not only for sports, but also for the country in general."

He added that the Mini Games offers a really great opportunity not only in terms of sports, but also for other areas of the CNMI economy.

"Mr. Tan talked to us about the tourism opportunity that have opened up. Like Japan, navigating the Games was interesting. We take what we learned from there and into other areas. All eyes will be on Saipan and the CNMI in this Mini Games."

Participants of the workshop said they learned a lot from Miranda, Cavu, and Bainimarama.

NMIFA's Zapanta said the biggest lesson he learned is any sports association should have a strategic plan or a good description of its own sports program, which will serve as a good marketing tool when seeking sponsors in addition to having a basis for managing the association.

"NMSA and all sports associations should also have marketing committees that can plan how to generate donations and other revenues for big events on a timely basis. Currently, what organizations do is wait last minute and then ask the players to help in fundraising or do solicitation, and also rely on the government to cover any funding shortfall."

Zapanta added that information about doping was very interesting and informative. "Basically, it's a player's responsibility to know what substances are prohibited for their particular sport. Banned drugs/substances also vary per sports."

MBL's Santos likened the workshop to going back to school and taking up Sports Organization 101 and he intends to use what he learned to help his sport.

"One of the more challenging things in running a sports organization is having the tools necessary to help your federation get pointed in the right direction. The ONOC workshop I attended gave us the skills needed to put a strategic plan together to include budgeting, marketing, and planning. I hope to use these skills to help further baseball in the CNMI and strengthen our competitiveness in the region."

NMITF's Tan said the biggest thing she learned from the workshop is that all sports federations need to put their constitution, good governance, and strategic plan together.

"The workshop conducted by ONOC was very informative for all sports federations and we enjoyed it very much. Some parts were also fun especially those with group activities," she said.

NMIBF's Monroyo said the workshop impressed on her that every federation has to have a strategic plan to provide direction for the group and also have an action plan to guide them how to achieve these goals.

She also couldn't forget the acronym FER, which stands for Friendship (developing relationship with all stakeholders), Excellence (setting standard and working to meet them), and Respect when managing a sports federation.

NMBA's Pangilinan said she also learned a lot from the ONOC workshop and she will use the lessons to improve their organization.

"The ONOC workshop was really great. Especially being a young member in the board, it helped me understand ways on how we can improve our organization. My biggest takeaway would be knowing the purpose of your organization. Setting a strategic plan, such as knowing your goals, mission, and vision for your organization helps the organization grow for its future. For badminton, there is a lot of work that needs to be done, but this workshop has and will help us in preparation for the Pacific Mini Games."

Fellow NMBA official Villaflor said the most important lesson she learned was that good governance and structure are the key ingredient for a successful sports federation. She added that good governance should be like a living Bible that could help you gain membership and even sponsorships that ultimately will help sustain your organization.

TRAC's Sitchon said the most important thing he learned during the workshop is the need for strategic planning. "We need to create a plan for the growth of our sport." He said this runs the whole gamut from planning to marketing, to media relations, to restructuring of the federation's bylaws/constitution.

HYUN

From Page 20

tember ace last Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Coral Ocean Resort in Agingan.

She came away with a net 65 after shooting identical 40s in the front and back nines for a gross score of 80. Minus her 15 handicap, she came away with the winning net score of the day.

Eun Ae Chang settled for runner-up honors for the September tourney after she finished a stroke back of Hyun with a net score of 66. She fired a 43 in the front nine before finishing her day with a 41 in the back nine for a gross score of 84, which minus her 18 handicap, gave her the 66.

Su Jeong Yu completed the Top 3 for this month's tournament after she carded a net score of 68. The 12-handicapper fired a superb 38 in the first nine holes before shooting a 42 in the last nine for a gross score of 80.

A total of 14 women took part in CWGA's September tournament. The rest of the players, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Sae Hee Kim (74), Rose Rohinger (69), Yuko Togawa (71), Nirimai (73), Lorraine Babauta (73), Eun Ae Tang (73), Mio Kim (77), Terry Guerrero (77), Sherlyn Jones (79), Lou Kim (84), Kyunga Park (89).

The club is also looking for new members as the new season continues. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.

Triton Esports announces team roster and new Valorant team

PAGE 19

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Baz wins debut, AL East-leading Rays beat Blue Jays 6-4

PAGE 17

SIS, Garapan-2 secure playoff seats

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan International School and Garapan Elementary School-2 won their first two games in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2021-2022 to clinch playoff berths.

The Geckos first defeated Koblerville Elementary School-2 last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, 6-0, and then topped San Vicente Elementary School last Friday, 6-2, to move one win away from sweeping their pool games in Group A.

Lukas Lee had a hat trick in SIS' shutout victory over Koblerville, while Beatrice Gross and Yutaro Kitagawa added one goal apiece, and the Geckos also got an own goal. Versus San Vicente, Lee and Gross delivered two goals each, while Johnny Zhang and Kitagawa contributed one apiece. San Vicente drew its pair of goals from Ronald Manabat.

In Group B, Garapan-2 duplicated SIS' 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record after prevailing over Saipan Community School, 5-1, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, 3-0.

Kanoa Owens made all three goals in Garapan-2's triumph over GTC last Friday and had four in their earlier

See SIS on Page 19

Saipan International School's Quido Jambor, right, and Koblerville Elementary School-2's Anissa Masga, center, chase the ball during their game in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2021-2022 last week at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Son Hyun swings from the greens during CNMI Women's Golf Association September ace last Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Coral Ocean Resort in Agingan. CWGA

Hyun wins CWGA's September tourney

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Son Hyun posted her first victory in the CNMI Women's Golf Association after winning the club's Sep-

See HYUN on Page 19

16 take part in 3-day workshop conducted by ONOC

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Marianas Sports Association successfully hosted a three-day course on Management in Sport Organizations led by officials from the Oceania National Olympic Committees and the Guam National Olympic Committee at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The MISO workshop was held not only to help strengthen national sporting federations in the islands but also was in support of the CNMI's preparations for next year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

Oceania Sport Education Program Regional master educator Joey Miranda III, Oceania National Olympic Committees officer in charge/chief admin officer Meli Cavu, and ONOC chief communications officer Inoke Bainimarama conducted the course, which is under the Oceania Sports Education Programme.

Attendees include CNMI Weightlifting's John Davis, NMI Swimming Federation's John Hirsh, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Ross Zapanta, Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's Somia Quan, Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Roselyn Monroyo, Northern Marianas Badminton Association's Janelle Pangelinan and Christy Villaflor, Saipan Baseball League's Jay Santos and Ben Jones, Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's Lydia Tan, Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation's Jason Tarkong and Heather Calderwood, Triathlon Association of the CNMI's Manny Sitchon, and a contingent from NMSA led by president Jerry Tan, secretary general Valerie Hofschneider, and executive director Carline Sablan.

Miranda, during a press conference Friday, said the first day of the workshop got off to a good start.

"I believe the workshop last night went quite well. There was a lot of engagement and

See ONOC on Page 19

Participants of the recently concluded three-day course on Management in Sport Organizations pose for a photo with Oceania Sport Education Program Regional master educator Joey Miranda III, Oceania National Olympic Committees officer in charge/chief admin officer Meli Cavu, and ONOC chief communications officer Inoke Bainimarama at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Miranda, Cavu, and Bainimarama also proudly show off their plaques of appreciation from NMSA for conducting the workshop. NMSA